

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

SOCCER

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WEEKLY

BRITS GIVE MARK BOSNICH RAW DEAL

DEPORTED

Superstar Gonzalez retires

BY TOM ANDERSON

MELITA'S brilliant Uruguayan defender Washington Gonzalez has retired.

Gonzalez 35, shocked the Melita camp at the weekend when he announced that his playing days are over.

"After a great deal of soul searching, I decided to hang up my boots and my playing days are over," he said.

"Last season was a marvellous one for Melita and I decided to finish on a high note.

"I have no regrets as I've had a wonderful career."

The elegant libero will however not be lost to the Melita club and has accepted an offer to join coach Raul Blanco's backroom staff.

Gonzalez, who played in 40 full internationals for Uruguay, was one of the finest defenders ever to play soccer in Australia.



Young kid forced back home

BY TOM ANDERSON

MARK Bosnich, Australia's goalkeeping hero of the recent World Youth Championships in Portugal, has been deported from Britain because he doesn't have a work permit.

He will now return home to resume his playing career in Australia with the Marconi club very interested in his future.

Last week, Bosnich, who has been playing for English First Division club Manchester United on a student visa, was informed by British Immigration officials that he must leave the UK immediately.

They informed the brilliant Young Soccerroo that if he did not leave of his own accord, they would bundle him on a plane and send him either to Amsterdam — his last port of departure before arriving back in Manchester after the World Youth Championships — Yugoslavia, the country of his father's birth, or Australia.

Bosnich 19, was very upset and efforts by the United officials to overthrow the immigration decision were to no avail.

Then late last week, United manager Alex Ferguson arrived back in England from a holiday in the USA and took a hand in the matter.

Ferguson arranged for his talented custodian to fly to Denmark to have talks with Brondby the Danish champions.

Brondby, coached by Morten Olsen reached the semi-finals of this year's UEFA Cup.

At the present time, Bosnich is on tour in Europe with the Danes.

However he has informed Brondby that he wants to return home to Australia.

United did not want to lose the world's finest young goalkeeper and wanted to 'farm him out' to a club in Europe until a work permit can be arranged for him in the UK.

Now Bosnich will return to Sydney and play for a couple of seasons and attempt to win a place in the full Soccerroo side.

What ABSW says . . .

FIFA's decision to tamper with the rules of the game and experiment in the under-17 World Youth Championships in Italy next month is ridiculous.

Especially at an age group where the players are still 'raw learners' of the greatest game of all.

Soccer's greatest strengths is its simplicity.

This is the code's great advantage over other sports, making it possible for players to enjoy their game fully at all levels, from the sophisticated to the most primitive.

Indeed the simplicity of the game over

the years has helped to boost its world popularity.

In the past, there have been attempts to tamper with the rules in a bid to improve the game.

But in general, modifications to the rules have mostly been resisted in order to retain the traditional qualities of the sport.

Sure, there have been trivial adjustments made here and there, but nothing outside the realms of common-sense.

Instead of changing the rules, what needs to be done is to change the negative thinking of some of the world's top

'RIDICULOUS'

coaches.

For no matter what rules are put into place, some of these mentors will still find a way to have their teams play negative football.

What is to be hoped for in Italy during the under-17 championships is, because of the rule changes, the bright careers of some of the participating kids are not ruined.

And, no doubt there will also be a number of the referees' reputations put on the line.

FIFA has erred in bringing about the changes in this series.

THE EDITOR

Ian Wallace calls it a day

BY GREG BLAKE

FORMER Scottish international Ian Wallace has slammed the door on Aussie soccer in a bid to resurrect his career in the game.

Wallace flew out of Tullamarine airport last Friday, bound for Britain, where he first made a name for himself on the world stage.

Although able to disguise the bitterness of just over three relatively disappointing years in Australia, he left this country a very disillusioned man.

Shattered that, despite a professional footballing record the equal or better of so many involved in the Australian game, he was seemingly unwanted in this country — certainly in Melbourne.

Unlike some coaches on the annual round-about, who boast self-promotion skills which far outweigh any tangible footballing talents, Wallace probably didn't 'sell himself' as well as he might have.

But rightfully, Wallace, who retained his dignity to the end by refusing to sniff out jobs,

believed that if a club wanted him, it would eventually come to see him.

On that basis it seemed that no club, indeed, did want him.

So one man who has made football his life — and successfully to boot — has left these shores with wife and daughter and seems destined never to return.

Wallace, who had been out of coaching for nearly a year after leaving State League Albion, is at a loss to know why he was given the cold-shoulder.

"I've been out for a year and I've not had any approaches", said the flame-haired former Scotland star on the eve of his departure.

"As far as the jobs here are concerned, it seems they just don't want people like me.

"I certainly wanted to get back into the NSL, but I know that there aren't many opportunities for that.

"But it's certainly disappointing that I didn't get any approaches, given the places I've been and played in.

"I know that doesn't automatically make you a good coach but it doesn't seem quite right to me all the same.

"Maybe I'm not as well-known here as I am at home — who knows?"

And well-known he certainly is back in Britain where, with just a couple of brief telephone calls, he has arranged meetings on his return with the likes of Nottingham Forest's legendary manager Brian Clough and Welsh national team boss and former international Terry Yorath.

Both have indicated their willingness to help Wallace back into the game in England by putting his name about for positions at clubs.

"Sure, I'm a bit apprehensive about going back there but I'm desperate to find a coach or manager's job, either

in Scotland or England", said the veteran of well in excess of 300 Football League games with Coventry City, Nottingham Forest and Sunderland.

"I just have to get back into the game.

"To do that I have to go back.

"It's a gamble, I know, but soccer is all I've done since I left school and it is all I have ever wanted to do.

"If this move works, it works.

"If not, who knows?"

Wallace says the bitterness of feeling unwanted in this country has gradually worn off over the past four months, since the time he and his family made the decision to sell their Wantirna South home and return to Britain.

"If people really want you, they'll let you know", he says.

"As it was, I wasn't getting anywhere and I felt like I was hitting my head against a brick wall.

"Whatever happens it is too easy to criticise and say everything is wrong (in this country).

"I think the game has a long way to go, but soccer is still young in this country and the Young Socceroos have shown what can happen if things are done right.

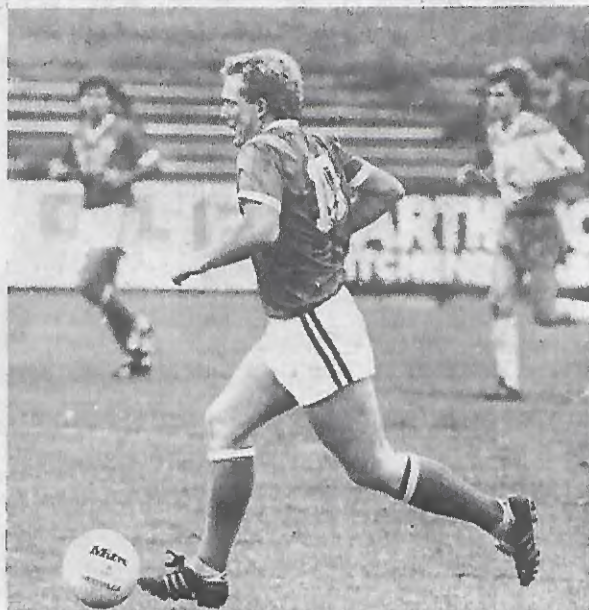
"I could talk about clubs being in the red, players not being paid etc., but there is no point.

"You've just got to accept the situation as it is".

Wallace joined NSL club Melbourne Croatia, then coached by Peter Ollerton, from Sunderland in 1987 but suffered the first bad break of his Australian career by fracturing his leg late in the 1987 season.

In 1988 Wallace took over as coach of that club and moved to then first division Albion one year later.

After taking Albion to a first division title and back into the State



IAN WALLACE

League in 1989, Wallace left the club in dispute mid-way through the 1990 State League season.

He hasn't worked in soccer, officially, since.

So what would he advise potential British imports considering coming to Australia in the years to come?

"Obviously, I've had

some bad experiences but I know all the clubs aren't like that", Wallace explained.

"I'd tell them to go with their eyes open and to understand that the game in Australia is not run as professionally as in England and that it still has a long way to go.

"I'd say that there

are good clubs in Australia and good people in the game.

"It's just a matter of finding them".

"I've made a lot of friends here in Australia — 95 percent of them through soccer — and I'll certainly miss them.

"But I've got to do what's right for me".

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Greg Brown

Melita change for new season

BY TOM ANDERSON

NSL hotshots Melita Eagles will have a completely new look when they lineup for the coming NSL season.

There's been a great deal of off-season transfer activity in the Eagles camp during the past few weeks, with coach Raul Blanco working overtime.

Gone from the playing scene are Washington Gonzalez, who has retired and transferred Gus Cerro — to Marconi — Alan Hunter to Brisbane and Geoff Gunning, Craig Williams and Craig Mason to Blacktown.

Acc striker Greg Brown is also on the transfer list and set to go at \$32,000.

On the other side of the coin, midfielder Klaus Okon has been signed from Apia and striker Osvaldo El Ali from St George.

And there will be more to come as the shrewd Blanco watches the Marconi transfer scene with interest.

"It's been quite an off-season so far and there have been a few comings and goings," Blanco said.

"The loss of Washington Gonzalez is sad, as he has been a wonderful player for us.

"However, he is not completely lost and will join our backroom staff.

"Despite the other movements I am confident we are lined up for a good season and there will be more signings soon.

"However, I'm not rushing into the transfer market just for the sake of it.

"I intend to sign replacements who will fit into our system and will do a job for us.

"There are players around who will fit the bill and it's only a matter of biding time and swooping at the opportune moment."

As usual, the Melita camp are going about their business in a quiet professional manner and one which is a credit to this well administered outfit.

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Look out in future ads for stockists in other areas.

TORWARTHANDSCHUHE

reusch

Big hunt!

BY TOM ANDERSON

APIA will turn to Britain to strengthen their lineup for next season's NSL campaign.

This was disclosed by Apia coach Manfred Schaefer at the weekend when he said he has been given the green light to recruit twotop-line English players.

"We need to strengthen our team, not only to be competitive, but also to give us a chance of honours," Schaefer said.

"I have already started negotiations with our contact in England, which I am certain will bear fruit."

Apia has lost Socorro star Milan Blagojevic to Marconi and midfielder Klaus Okon to Melita.

Other star midfielder Alex Bundalo is also on the transfer list.

Like many other

clubs, Apia is watching the transfer movement at Marconi with great interest.

Top of their wanted list could be Fairfield goalkeeper Bob Catlin, if Catlin decides to move on from Marconi.

Another local star in Apia's sights is Sydney defender Paul Carter.

Coach Schaefer feels that Carter still has a great deal to offer in NSL circles.

Despite being on the end of an offer from Newcastle, utility player Darren Stewart is still wanted at Apia.

"I would like to keep Darren as he is a fine player and high on my planning list," Schaefer said.

New buy!

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

SYDNEY OLYMPIC have swooped and signed Hong Kong's hottest striker, Tim Bredbury on a two year contract.

Late last week Olympic's general manager Stefan Kamasz secured Bredbury in a lightning fast deal against all odds.

Kamasz and club president George Pahalas have been negotiating with Bredbury over the past six weeks.

Every club in Hong Kong were also angling for this goalscoring machine but surprisingly, Sydney Olympic won the race.

Bredbury will arrive in Australia in the first week of August to begin his new career with Olympic.

He will come here

with his wife and two children.

The 27 year old striker is a former Liverpool apprentice and has been Hong Kong's leading striker for the last four years.

He has played for the Hong Kong national team 44 times and scored 15 goals.

Bredbury is currently with leading club Lai Sun, and this season scored 22 goals.

Bredbury hopefully will be an excellent substitute to fill the spot that could be left vacant soon by the departure of Abbas Saad.

Saad is expected to be sold for \$100,000 to Malaysian club side, Johor.

Sydney Olympic will register Bredbury as a visa player and will not have to pay a transfer fee for him.



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THE YOUNG

SPECIAL REPORT

BY
JOHNNY
WARREN



AFTER only fifteen minutes of the opening qualifier against Israel at the Sydney Football Stadium, the opinion was expressed by an experienced print media associate in the press room that the Young Socceroos were "totally untalented".

Few could disagree on what we'd seen from a tentative, nervous, unco-ordinated team, when Israel, in terms of skill, class, maturity, tactical expertise and general play, made the Young Socceroos look very ordinary.

Anyone suggesting at that highly premature stage that this bunch of young Australians would stun the football world in Portugal would have run the risk of being certified insane.

The Young Socceroos survived the qualifiers somewhat luckily thanks to the draw and a couple of more than favourable decisions to advance to Portugal.

"It's better to be lucky and win than unlucky and lose as it was about time we'd had a few hometown decisions against Israel!" was the general consensus.

Coaches Raul Blanco and Les Scheinflug told me the team performed to about half of its capacity in the Israeli games and while we all believed them, few if any predicted they would go on to achieve arguably our finest

hours at international level.

The team which scraped through against Israel stunned everyone in Portugal. Not just with their results but with the manner in which they achieved them. The Egyptian and Soviet coaching staff rated them "as a team which plays modern football" very early in the tournament and as the results came and the performances impressed more and more, the compliments reached higher and higher levels.

"The Kangurus" were the surprise packet of the tournament with highly successful Portugal coach Carlos Queiroz describing them in one of the many newspaper tributes as "a modern team, with the mental qualities of the British, the physical qualities of the Nordics and a perfume of Yugoslav skills about their technique".

The only ones not surprised were coaches Scheinflug and Blanco and their superb bunch of ambassadors for Australian football and Australia itself.

My own thoughts on Australia's chances were published in the Sun Herald, Sydney, on June 9, one week before the tournament kicked off and went like this...

"The Young Socceroos have all the necessary ingredients to be a real force in the WYC beginning in Portugal next week.

"In the old days they'd tell you if a team had an above average goalkee-



Winning trifecta... Young Socceroos Paul Okon (left) and David Seal show off their championship bronze medals with a beaming Les Scheinflug — Picture: BARRY MCKINNON

per, centre half, and centre forward you'd have an above average team.

"On that basis and modernising those key positions to goalkeeper, sweeper or libero and striker, our Young Socceroos are an above average team with an excellent chance of reaching, at least, the quarter finals of the championships.

"In skipper Paul Okon, Manchester United goalkeeper Mark Bosnich and striker David Seal, the Young Socceroos have three immensely talented, experienced key players who could well decide Australia's fortunes.

"Bosnich, though limited to three first team games for Man United, brings three invaluable years of experience from British professional football.

"Skipper Okon ranks as one of our finest ever young talents, winning the Under 21 Players Player of the Year for the past two seasons.

"With such experience and talent in these three crucial positions, Australian fans have every reason to be optimistic.

"Throw in excellent preparation (more training camps than the senior Socceroo squad had in 1966, 1970 and

1974), the fact that most of the players have extensive NSL experience and most are full time players, and one views Australia's chances in the brightest of terms."

It is history now that in stunning the world, the Young Socceroos beat Trinidad and Tobago 2-0 in the opener in a game which should have been 8 or 9-0.

In the second, their best performance in my view in the entire tournament, they were absolutely brilliant in all respects in beating one of the tournament favourites and European Champions, the Soviet Union 1-0, via Brad Maloney's marvellous goal.

African champions Egypt were next 1-0 against at the hands of a totally professional Aussie side, before

their deserved shootout win over Syria in the quarter final.

The semi final against Portugal is a night Australian Soccer, not to mention the players themselves, will never forget.

It took Rui Costa's goal of the tournament to knock Australia out.

Playing before the largest crowd ever to watch any Australian football team, the Young Socceroos played not only against an immensely talented Portugal but the unbelievable backing of 112,500 fans.

Their maturity, temperament and expertise in absorbing so much on and off the field pressure in those first 44 minutes without conceding a chance, let alone a goal, ranks as one of the finest all round efforts of any team in the green and gold.

It all could have been so different had the score remained 0-0 at half time and Scheinflug and Blanco had the opportunity to sort a few things out during the interval.

Sadly, Rui Costa's brilliant effort came just one minute before that life-saving half time.

While it is all too easy to be critical sitting in the stand and knowing that all the "great"

coaches give opinions after the match, I felt Australia had the capacity, as proved in the second half, to put the pressure back on Portugal, particularly through a greater contribution of the talented Okon coming into midfield much more often.

We'd seen Portugal almost crumble to Mexican pressure in the quarter final and it will remain a talking point for years whether the Young Socceroos, with a more positive approach against Portugal,

would have reached the final, or perhaps gone on and won it.

This, however, is a minor, very minor point, in a tournament where Les Scheinflug and his team of coaches and players were knocked out in the semi-final before very fanatical fans to the goal of the tournament, to the hosts, the defending champions and eventual champions, Portugal.

Few could have asked for, or expected more than that.



LORENZ KINDTNER

THE Young Socceroos have now played in front of two of the top four highest ever attendances at World Youth football.

The top all time attendances are:

125,000	Portugal v Brazil Portugal '91
120,000	Portugal v Australia Portugal '91;
110,000	Argentina v Brazil Mexico '83
108,900	Mexico v Australia Mexico '83
90,000	Portugal v Mexico Portugal '91
80,582	Mexico v Scotland Mexico '83;
75,000	Chile v Australia Chile '87
71,198	Mexico v South Korea Mexico '83
70,000	Saudi Arabia v Nigeria Saudi Arabia '89



SOC CEROOS



PORTUGAL 91

**the Young Socce-
roos were treated
like superstars.**

They did more ambassadorial work for Australia than a host of ambassadors would do for Australia in a lifetime.

Always friendly, always available, well mannered, disciplined, totally professional in everything they did, they were fabulous representatives of Australia.

That they were one of the fairest teams in the tournament is a testament to their professionalism.

I hesitate to rate players in a team sport, particularly when a team is on tour and the 'reserve players' play such a vital role in the team's overall success.

Quite simply, collectively the Young Soccerroos of 1991 gave our great game a real kick along in Australia.



STEVE CORICA

THERE were many lessons in Portugal for all, none the least the ASF.

The transformation of the team from the tentative, inhibited side we saw against Israel to the one which stunned the footballing world in Portugal was for mine the addition of Bosnich but more importantly the training camp and matches in Holland and Belgium.

The expense involved in the pre tournament exercise in Holland and Belgium was the best investment the ASF has made for many years.

It was the catalyst for

turning a potential team into a world class one at youth level.

The message loud and clear to the ASF is that if it wants results on the park it has to invest heavily off it to provide ALL our national teams with the opportunity to compete on an equal basis.

A special word for youth coaches Scheinflug and Blanco.

They were a media person's dream, particularly to SBS' Les Murray and myself — always available, always co-operative, always

helpful in making our job easier.

On an international front they did countless interviews for print and electronic media promoting Australian football and Australia itself.

Scheinflug's post match press conferences were equally impressive — positive, no excuses, no criticism of referees — all in all, first class.

IN the northern university city of Braga where the team played its early matches and later in Lisbon and Porto

THE MIKE JOHNSON REPORT

Players must get organised



WHAT would you do if you worked for an organisation and they didn't pay you any money on pay day?

You'd go and see the union man?

Well, if you were playing soccer in Australia there is a chance you may not be getting paid right at this moment.

But there is no chance of you getting any help from the union man.

There isn't one!

You could go and see a solicitor, but they charge like a wounded bull, anything from \$100 per hour upward to \$600 per hour.

In these years of 1990-91 there are players in the National League, Victorian State League and NSW State League who have not been paid contractual wages for playing soccer for their club.

There is a crying need for such people to be represented by a union official.

However, unlike the predominantly part-time players of NSW Rugby League, the soccer players have not been able to get together and appoint a paid

official to act on their behalf.

The Rugby League players are paying former St George League international, Kevin Ryan, solicitor, to act for them in legal and other matters.

Mr Ryan is in charge of the RL Players' Association.

With some Australian soccer players now being sold for fees and being paid money far in excess of that going to League players, there is obviously a great need for a players' union, or association, whatever you like to call it.

Even as long ago as the 1960s, it was recognised there was a need for a players' union.

Indeed, one was formed in NSW. I became its secretary.

Having suffered a bad injury that was going to put me out for a good while, one thought, why not, it will give me something to do in soccer.

It sure did. After a year and still not playing, I decided to go back to England to take courses to become a coach — some late nights, but at least you get paid for them, generally.

Since that time, various states around Aus-

tralia have set up independent players' unions, but seldom have they achieved longevity.

Now with the accelerating outflow of young Australian players overseas and probably a gradual inflow of incoming overseas visa players, the need for a players' paid representative is a dire necessity.

The position of Players' Association Director needs to be brought under the umbrella of the ASF to give it substance, housed in the ASF offices to give it status, part-backed by the ASF to give it continuity.

Given substance, status and continuity a Players' Association Director could bring stability and expertise to an area that is currently as misty and unreal as the boglands of Brigadoon in Ireland.

During recent weeks I have fronted the disciplinary committee of the NSW Soccer Federation, charged with 'ringing in' players during a 7-a-side tournament held four days before the start of the NSW State League season.

I attended five disciplinary tribunal sessions, four of which



FRANK FARINA

lasted from 7.30pm to 12.30pm, thus the actual time for me was leave home 6.15pm, arrive home almost 2am (in the morning).

After two sessions, I was advised that one needed a solicitor.

I anticipate my solicitors' bill, at \$130 per hour, will be in the region of \$4000.

One has since been found guilty and has been fined \$3000 by the Federation.

I anticipate it will cost me not less than \$5000 to clear my name in a civil court.

A competent legal man, such as League's Kevin Ryan, would be an enormous plus for both players and soccer authorities.

He would not only be able to settle financial wrangles, but also initiate change and generalise position and new ideas in the legal/financial area.

This could especially apply in advice to players and clubs in the formation of contracts for players going into the big-time.

For example, the \$5,000 transfer fee to FC Brugge from Italy's Bari, for Frank Farina.

Does Marconi get any of that? Or does Farina's original Canberra club get any of that?

Will Farina be available for Australia, when, and for how much?

These and other vital items could be drawn into a contract, formulated by the Players' Association Director, to protect player, club(s) and Australia.

Lorenz Kindtner has gone to Belgium for a reported \$250,000, Paul Okon \$300,000.

What of Marconi's John Markovski, who had a \$12,000 transfer fee limit put in his contract to join Marconi

from his Melbourne club.

Will he go to Holland or Belgium for the same figure and short-change Australian soccer?

So much seems ad hoc in legal matters in Australian soccer.

Soon we can anticipate a player suing another player at law for badly injuring him.

This already has been done in League.

Who is covering that eventually?

The Australian Soccer Federation needs to canvas top players about the setting up of a Players' Association to represent players around Australia.

In England every professional club has a players' union delegate.

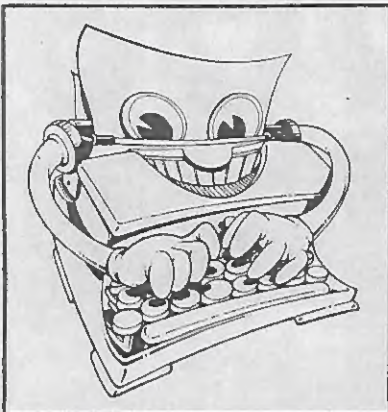
I was one at Doncaster Rovers.

Over there the Player Union works closely with the Football League in judiciary matters.

It also generally is seeking to be a force for good in football, while seeking to represent and protect its players from any perceived abuse.

Such a charter could be a starting of point for an Australian Professional (inc semi-pro.) Association of Players.

Chit Chat ... Chit Chat ... Chit Chat



YOUNG SOCCEROOS BIG DRAWCARDS

BY LOU GAUTIER

CROWD figures released by FIFA show that the Young Socceroos have played before some of the largest — and in some cases THE largest — crowds that have watched Australian sports teams overseas.

FIFA's official attendances at all Youth World Cups indicate that in the 1991, 1983 and 1987 tournaments, Australia played in front of the biggest crowds and, of course, in Portugal this year the Australia-Portugal semi-final drew 112,500-plus fans in Lisbon.

At the 1991 finals in Australia, Australia's game against England attracted 28,932 spectators — the largest in the series.

In 1983, in Mexico, the Young Socceroos again drew the biggest attendance — in the tournament opener

against hosts Mexico.

The crowd at the Azteca Stadium was 108,900 on that occasion.

Australia's best crowd in the Soviet Union in 1985 was 16,000 against the host nation, but in 1987 in Chile it was their match against Chile in Santiago which attracted the biggest turn-out of the tournament — 75,000.

In 1989, in Saudi Arabia, the match between Saudi Arabia and Nigeria drew the most people — 70,000.

The largest — and world record youth crowd — at Portugal '91 was the capacity 120,000 at the Estadio De Luz for the Portugal-Brazil final.

It is a feather in Australia's cap that the Young Socceroos have appeared in front of more spectators than any country since the inception of the Youth World Cup.

Let's hope Australia's Youth World Cup attendance tally swells further in 1993 when the finals are staged in Australia.



VIC FERNANDEZ

New West Adelaide coach Vic Fernandez has gone to Argentina seeking quality players for the new National Soccer League season.

Fernandez, born in Argentina, has a wealth of contacts in South America and could lure at least two imports here.

He has travelled there on a sponsorship agreement at no cost to the club.

The new NSL kicks off on October 6 with West joining Ade-

laide City as SA teams in the revamped, 14-team set-up.

West Adelaide, meanwhile, is having talks with city about launching a joint membership pass for NSL games this season at Hindmarsh Stadium.

In a similar arrangement to that at Football Park, members would get a pass, costing in the region of \$100 a season, for all games.

Discussions are continuing.

Big surprise: Baz omitted!

BY GRAHAM COOKE

THE ACT senior squad to play a series of international games next month has been announced with one surprise omission.

Former National Soccer League star Baz Giampaolo, the man who would probably have been at the top of most selectors' lists, is not available because of work commitments and will miss the home game with New Caledonia and the three-match tour of Fiji.

Manager Don Rushan said that two of Giampaolo's team-mates at league leader Olympic, Peter Mazis and Vic Fernandez, had also not been considered as they are overseas with the Australian Universities team.

"They would have been back with a couple of days to spare, but it would have been unfair to include them when they had not done all the preparation work," Rushan said.

"Even so, I think this is a squad which can do the job for the ACT."

Three other Olympic players — defender Mark Arthur and strikers John Janke and Arsenije Popovich — are included in the 16-player squad, as is Alan Reis, now playing with Tuggeranong United after several successful seasons in the NSW League.

Rushan said the squad was well balanced, ranging from teenager Popo-

vich to the vastly experienced Peter Thomson and Mike Milovanovic. These and players like Tuggeranong United's talented defender Jimmy Baxter are certain to play key roles in the territory's biggest on-field adventure in a decade.

The most immediate problem is match practice. A game with Canberra City was washed out and Rushan is hoping the Australian Institute of Sport, back from its South American tour, will be available for a couple of matches before the August 3 date with New Caledonia.

The squad is: Manuel Notaras, Mike Milovanovic, John Robinson, John Walsh (Belconnen United), Alistair Lyall, Craig Cook (Canberra City), Peter Thompson, Jimmy Baxter, Gardner Murray, Alan Reis (Tuggeranong United), Steve Lazzari, Martin Lazzari (Weston Creek), Luka Ujdur (Canberra Croatia), Mark Arthur, John Janke, Arsenije Popovich (Olympic).

• The ACT Under-14 team to play in the national championship in September is: Andrew Boland, Patner Phommessy, Ricky Galeotti (Belwest), Ivor Rakic, Anthony Mijoc (Canberra Croatia), Robert Shaw (Bel-south), Abu Kaledi, Daniel Bennett (Woden Valley), Jack Smith (Weston Creek), Richard Neal (Tuggeranong United), Emergencies, Steven Richard (Tuggeranong United), Terry Otterwill (Belnorth).

New look stadium

FANS could see a new-look Hindmarsh Stadium by November.

SA Soccer Federation general manager Tony Farrugia said tenders were out for the second stage of the stadium development.

He expected work to be completed by November.

Excellent flood-lighting was installed in the first phase of SA soccer's premier ground.

In the \$490,000 second phase, approved by the State Government, special media booths, a VIP area and a TV platform will be built in the western stand.

Players change-rooms will be expanded, with lockers provided. More toilets and showers will be installed and an infirmary area enhanced. There also will be facilities for drug testing.

Fans hope they will be catered for in the final \$400,000 third phase. An all-seater stadium is a FIFA prerequisite for major international events so, hopefully, that will be the next benchmark for Hindmarsh.

Farrugia also said a State coach was likely to be named in two or three weeks. He could be involved in a State of Origin round-robin interstate series Farrugia claimed the Australian Soccer Federation was interested in staging.

Phil is listed

LIVEWIRE Heidelberg midfielder Phil Stubbins, one of three players transfer-listed by the club, is likely to start the new season in the red-and-black of Preston Makedonia.

The 29 year-old has agreed to terms with Preston and is hoping to be released by the Bergers for substantially less than the \$25,000 he is quoted as on the list.

Stubbins was also chased by Sydney Olympic and Newcastle.

Other players listed at Olympic Village are defenders Stuart Cannell and Willie Herd.

Herd and Cannell have applied for tribunal hearings to contest the transfer fees asked by Heidelberg.

Where now?



VLADO BOZINOSKI

BY LOU GAUTIER

THE fate of Socceroo Vlado Bozinoski will be determined this week when Sporting Lisbon announce the names of the 20 players they are taking to their pre-season camp in Holland.

According to Portuguese sources, Bozinoski only has a 50-50 chance of being retained by the glamour club.

Bozinoski, who joined Sporting last season via FC Brugge, Beira Mar and Chaves, only played 404 First Division minutes in 1990-91.

He had two full games and was a sub, or was substituted, in nine

matches last season.

Bozinoski's form was badly hampered by a sending off midway through the season just when he was establishing himself.

That costly expulsion was followed by a serious groin injury, the same injury that kept him out of the Australian team in June when he flew back to try to break into the Socceroo squad.

Bozinoski's best moments last season for Sporting came in the early rounds of UEFA Cup when he played regularly, and even scored a goal.

If he is let go by Sporting, he is likely to join another Portuguese side, perhaps on a one-year loan.

The Portuguese league season kicks off on August 18.

Not rocky



TRACEY WESTON

1991 is the first year in Women's Soccer for the North Rocks Soccer Club, but they've had quite a year. Not only have they reached the WSL Cup Final and will take part in the finals but they have recruited a talented and young squad.

They supplied:

• Two players, Weston and Davies to the NSW U16 Team including Weston as Captain.

• Six players to the NSW U19 Team; Patterson, Yardin, Balzan, Smith, Redding and Miseraha. Once again supplying the captain — Yardin.

• Four players to the

1990 State Senior Squad; Tann, Boyd, Yardin and Bartlett.

Carrying on from that, Weston & Yardin and Patterson have been selected in the 1991 Australian U19 Team and Boyd, Bartlett and Tann are in the 1991 Female Socceroo Team.

Coach of North Rocks and also captain of Australia, Anissa Tann said: "One of the main reasons behind the success of our players is that we encourage enjoyment of the game first. If you can get them to be enthusiastic and love the game of soccer, results will come, and they have."

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SOCCER POOLS

THE
POOLS

THIS WEEK'S MATCH LIST

WEEK 313
SAT. 27th JULY, 1991

VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 1	EASENDON C. 1	WESTERN SUBS. 1
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 2	PT. MELBOURNE 2	WERRIBEE 2
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 3	DANDENONG 3	BANDORINGHAM 3
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 4	DONCASTER 4	CLIFTON HILL 4
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 5	KEILOR 5	CHELSEA 5
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 6	S.H. POLONIA 6	B'MEADOWS 6
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 7	GEELONG 7	ALTONA CITY 7
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 8	NUNAWADING 8	BRIGHTON 8
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 9	RICHMOND 9	WAVERTLEY 9
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 10	BENTLEIGH 10	SUNBURY UTD. 10
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 11	OAKLEIGH SUBS. 11	FITZROY CITY 11
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 12	MOORABBIN 12	SEAFORD UTD. 12
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 13	EAST BRUNN. U. 13	SPRINGVALE U. 13
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 14	LALOR UTD. 14	CLAYTON 14
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 15	HEIDELBERG C. 15	MORELAND U. 15
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 16	ELTHAM UTD. 16	CLARINDA 16
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 17	CANNING 17	ASHFIELD 17
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 18	BOORAGOON 18	ARMADALE PK. 18
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 19	BALGATTA ETNA 19	WEST YUGAL 19
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 20	COCKBURN UTD. 20	UNIVERSITY 20
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 21	GERALDTON 21	STIRLING VASTO 21
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 22	MORLEY 22	SUBIACO 22
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 23	NORTH LAKE 23	SWAN C. 23
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 24	PERTH CITY 24	QUEENS PK. 24
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 25	ADELAIDE C. 25	HELLAS 25
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 26	BEOGRAD 26	CROATIA 26
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 27	SALISBURY 27	POLONIA 27
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 28	MOOREVILLE 28	AZZURRI 28
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 29	W.T. BIRKALLA 29	PARA HILLS 29
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 30	LION GRANGE 30	BLACKWOOD 30
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 31	CUMBERLAND U. 31	OMONIA 31
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 32	ELIZABETH 32	NOARLUNGA U. 32
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 33	SEAFORD 33	CENTRAL DIST. 33
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 34	OLYMPIANS 34	PT. ADELAIDE 34
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 35	ENFIELD CITY 35	CAMPBELLTOWN 35
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 36	BENTLEIGH 36	BROTHERS U. 36
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 37	LOGAN CITY 37	LATROBE VALLEY 37
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 38	DARPA UTD. 38	ALBANY CREEK 38

RESERVE MATCHES

VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 39	CLAYTON 39	DECEPTION 39
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 40	UNIVERSITY 40	SAMFORD R. 40
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 41	SOUTHIDE 41	PINE HILLS 41
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 42	OAKLEY UTD. 42	TOOWONG 42
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 43	SOUTH STAR 43	WINDING UTD. 43
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 44	OLYMPIC 44	BUNNIE 44
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 45	LAUNCESTON 45	DEVONPORT 45
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 46	GEORGE TOWN 46	CROATIA 46
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 47	RAVENSHAW 47	SOMERSET 47
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 48	WILKINSON 48	WESTERN SUBS. 48
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 49	ROBINIA 49	LANGWARRIN 49
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 50	YARRAVILLE 50	MORNINGTON 50
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 51	KARINGALL UTD. 51	PARCOE VALE 51
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 52	S. DANDENONG 52	HAMLYN R. 52
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 53	ROBANAHA 53	CRANBOURNE 53
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 54	REGENT 54	HANWORTH 54
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 55	STH. WERRIBEE 55	WESTVALE 55
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 56	ALTONA EAST 56	WILLIAMSTOWN 56
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 57	S. SPRINGVALE 57	BOUNDSWICK G. 57
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 58	KNOX PARK 58	FOREST HILL 58
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 59	NTH. SUNSHINE 59	MELTON 59
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 60	MALVERN CITY 60	BERWICK CITY 60
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 61	FRANKTON U. 61	YALLOURN 61
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 62	MENTONE U. 62	MEADOW PARK 62
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 63	EAST GEELONG 63	HOPPER CROB. 63
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 64	LYNDALE UTD. 64	MELB. UNI. 64

* Winning match numbers and supplementary number.

Get your Pools in!

It takes only six numbers to win.

MATCH RESULTS

WEEK 312

SAT. 20th JULY, 1991

VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 1	BELL PARK 1	NTH. GEELONG 1-3
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 2	ALTONA CITY 2	S.H. POLONIA 2-0
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 3	B'MEADOWS 3	KEILOR 3-3*
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 4	CHELSEA 4	DONCASTER 4-2
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 5	SUNBURY UTD. 5	RICHMOND 5-1-0
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 6	WAVERTLEY 6	NUNAWADING 6-3-1
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 7	BRIGHTON 7	GEELONG 7-3-0
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 8	SANDRINGHAM 8	BENTLEIGH 8-3-2
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 9	CLIFTON HILL 9	DANDENONG 9-2-2*
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 10	CLARINDA 10	EAST BRUNN. U. 10-1-0
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 11	MORELAND U. 11	ELTHAM UTD. 11-1-3
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 12	CLAYTON 12	HEIDELBERG C. 12-3-0
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 13	CORIO UTD. 13	LALOR UTD. 13-0-2
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 14	SEAFORD UTD. 14	HOLLAND PK. 14-0-0
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 15	FITZROY CITY 15	MOORABBIN 15-0-0
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 16	SPRINGVALE U. 16	OAKLEIGH SUBS. 16-0-0
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 17	ROCKINGHAM 17	ATHENA 17-2-2*
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 18	PERTH ITALIA 18	FREMANTLE B. 18-1-1
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 19	SORRENTO 19	STIRLING MAC. 19-1-1*
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 20	BALGA 20	SWAN CRAC. 20-2-1
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 21	BASSENDEN 21	OSBORNE PK. 21-4-1
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 22	DIANELLA 22	MELVILLE 22-1-2
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 23	EAST PERTH 23	INGLEWOOD 23-1-2
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 24	FORRESTFIELD 24	GOSNELLS 24-2-0
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 25	FERNDALE U. 25	WHITFORD C. 25-4-2
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 26	WANNEROO 26	STIRLING T.P. 26-0-0
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 27	BLACKWOOD 27	AZZURRI 27-0-2
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 28	POLONIA 28	MODBURY 28-1-1*
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 29	CROATIA 29	SALISBURY 29-1-3
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 30	HELLAS 30	BEOGRAD 30-4-0
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 31	PARA HILLS 31	ADELAIDE C. 31-0-2
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 32	LION GRANGE 32	W.T. BIRKALLA 32-0-2
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 33	PT. ADELAIDE 33	CAMPBELLTOWN 33-1-2
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 34	SEAFORD 34	ELIZABETH 34-2-1
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 35	OMONIA 35	NOARLUNGA U. 35-1-1*
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 36	CUMBERLAND U. 36	ENFIELD CITY 36-0-1
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 37	CENTRAL DIST. 37	OLYMPIANS 37-2-2*
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 38	CAPALABA 38	REDCLIFFE C. 38-2-0



THE POOLS RESULTS HISTORY AT 18/7/91 — WEEK 312

NO. OF TIMES EACH NUMBER OCCURRED													NO. OF WEEKS SINCE EACH NUMBER OCCURRED												
35	30	45	27	36	40	39	50						9	15	3	0	1	1	3	14	2				
9	51	67	61	67	56	63	55	58					0	4	4	3	2	6	5	15	18				
63	50	50	82	61	25	05	44	59					17	16	3	0	6	5	4	4	2				
58	28	27	26	29	72	38	66	63					23	08	14	07	03	09	20	51	50				
58	50	63	60	77	72	38	66	63					04	8	14	0	1	07	0	34	1				
66	74	68	80	66	05																				

Results History is from Week 38, the start of Six from 38 Pools



So good Great Scott! A double

CANBERRA METRO 2
SUTHERLAND 0

BY

GRAHAM COOKE

CANBERRA Metro opened up the NSW League title race with a 2-0 win over leader Sutherland at Deakin Oval on Sunday.

It was a welcome return to form for the home side which had conceded seven goals in two away losses before this game.

Although still in with a chance at halftime, Sutherland rarely threatened, while Canberra's Paul Foster forced a fine save from goalkeeper Paul Dart with a low, hard drive.

The deadlock was broken two minutes into the second half. Defender Steve Vanzetti, who had been worrying Sutherland with some penetrating runs, fired in a powerful shot which struck Robbie O'Shea on the hand. It was debatable whether O'Shea would have known much about it, but with the ball probably on its way into the net referee Gary Power had no hesitation in giving a penalty.

Foster's well struck spot kick gave Dart no chance.

Paul Beltrami replaced Stan Dukic and with his first touch of the ball the chunky striker flicked a cheeky little chip up over Dart's head and into the back of the net.

Two minutes later it appeared as if one of the home side's infamous lapses of concentration would let its opponent back into the game.

A pass across the face of goal from Grant Baird found Scott Le-

ney without a defender in sight — a moment's hesitation allowed goalkeeper Paul Jones to get close enough to block the shot.

There was chaos in front of the Sutherland goal when Tony Lemezzina worked the ball into Andy Ravanello whose header beat Dart only to thud against the upright.

Ravanello collected the rebound, then saw his shot scrambled off the line though the combined efforts of two desperate defenders.

Then Lemezzina himself had a cracking shot stopped by an excellent save from Dart.

School teacher Beltrami, who arrived in Canberra at the beginning of the season after playing all his soccer in Adelaide, said he was delighted with his first senior goal for the club.

Less than a month previously he had been playing in Canberra Croatia's ACT League side, gaining promotion first into the Metro's youth team and then into the firsts via the substitute's bench.

"I still believe the club can win the championship and you can bet I want to be part of it," he said. "If we can keep putting pressure on our opponents the way we did today I see no reason why we can't win all our remaining games."

CANBERRA METRO: Jones, Rogic, Marcina, Vanzetti, Koch, Gagetti, Pratezina, Ravanello (Mullins 75), Foster, Lemezzina, Dukic (Beltrami 51).

SUTHERLAND: Dart, Edmonds (Brand 76), Sellar (Lardie 24), Ennor, M O'Shea, R O'Shea, Christodoulou, Clinch, Baird, Loney, Sharp.

REFEREE: Gary Power.
CROWD: 417.

SYDNEY MACE 3
WARRINGAH F/WATER 2

ALMOST unnoticed, free scoring Sydney Macedonia striker Scott Gilbert has accumulated goals this season and another two-goal haul on Sunday lifted him to the head of the scorers list and assisted his side in its 3-2 win over fellow title-seekers Warringah Freshwater at Jensen Park.

The biggest cheers, however, were reserved for big stopper Mark Reveley who notched his first goal for the club since moving from Moli-ta four seasons back, the header in the 75th minute proving to be the winner.

A brisk passing move involving Gilbert, Andrew Kosczka and Fabian Kadric in the fifteenth minute led to the opener.

Kosczka finally laying the ball off to Gilbert for a tidy finish.

Jose Iriarte had to have two stabs at it, but his 47th minute equaliser was well taken, following a solo run after which the first shot was partially cleared.

In the 58th minute Gilbert got his second after a cross from the right had ricocheted off a defender's legs and he had pounced on the loose ball.

A lovely volley by Warringah player-coach Glenn Sterrey brought the teams level again in the 70th.

Macedonia's winner was Reveley's reward for patience, having come up for set-plays for so many matches without



finding the net.

As it happened, he had come up for a corner, but moments later, staying

up and looking to support the attack, a cross came over and the header was sweetly timed.

SYDNEY MACEDONIA: Avellino, Souris, Crkovski, Reveley, Pilovski, Kosczka, Surjan, Bozkovski (Talevski), Adioski, Gilbert, Kadric.

WARRINGAH FRESHWATER: Gunning, Etherington, Brown, Sterrey, Pierce, Miranda, Mast (Dean 75), Callcott (Veral 46), de Ceglie, Iriarte, McKillop.

REFEREE: Kevin Tooka.

Lowe goal

MANLY NS UTD 0
BHP AUSTRAL 3

HOLDING BHP Austral for the best part of an hour proved of little value to strugglers Manly North Shore who went down 3-0 to the well drilled Newcastle side.

Farac gave the front line a bit of penetration, but for all his efforts there was nothing to show for it.

Ralph Maier had Andrew Prentice grasping at thin air as his header rattled the post in the 27th minute, following a typical Bobby Naumov cross from the right.

After a period of sustained pressure Doug Elphick, operating as an old fashioned centre forward, hung back on the right of the area and received the ball unattended. With plenty of time to think Elphick lifted the ball over the head of

Prentice, waiting at the near post, and presented Dean McWhirter with a simple header in centre of the goal, this tension breaker in the 69th minute of an even game at that stage.

From that point Manly North Shore seemed to lose their way entirely and never threatened again.

Nicky Meredith found space on the left in the 88th and crossed to the far post where the unmarked Troy Halpin, a success story of the Under-19's, had an easy finish to make it 2-0.

David Jones breezed into the area on the left side in injury time to present David Lowe with the simplest of headers to wrap it all up for a side which at the finish was totally dominant.

MANLY NORTH SHORE UNITED: Prentice, Clantar, Butler (M. Lowe 89), Medanic, Milicevic, McGregor, O'Carroll, Moses, White, Farac, Grimes (Greenway 66).

BHP AUSTRAL: Carter, Roberts, Jones, Boogard, Stewart, Elphick (Halpin 86), McWhirter, Meredith (Belle 89), D. Lowe, Maier, Naumov.

REFEREE: Alex Spirovis.

ROUND 17 RESULTS

SOUTHERN DISTRICTS 1 (CARD) AVALA 0.

CANTERBURY M/VILLE 0 ROCKDALE ILINDEN 1 (Beddoni).

CANBERRA METRO 2 (Foster, Beltrami) SUTHERLAND SHIRE 0.

SYDNEY MACEDONIA 3 (Gilbert 2, Reveley) WARRINGAH F/WATER 2 (Iriarte, Sterrey).

BLACKTOWN CITY 2 (McKinna 2) POLONIA 1 (Kwasniewski).

MANLY NORTH SHORE 0 BHP AUSTRAL 3 (McWhirter, Halpin, Lowe).

SOUTHERN DISTRICTS 1
AVALA 0

LAST year's 2nd Division champions Southern Districts completed a double over big spenders Avala with a 1-0 win at Rangers Stadium on Sunday.

Good goalkeeping by Tony Pezzano and sound defence, particularly by Bruno Ciaramella, kept Avala at bay, the bumpy pitch contributing to Avala's misery.

Pezzano made at least four vital saves and Tony Genovese, now established in midfield, cleared a goalbound header off the line in the 28th minute when the visitors looked certain to score.

Osvaldo El Ali set up attacking full back David Fitzharris with a simple chance early in the second half, but the defender skewed his shot well wide.

Gurkan Tasdemir, who is maturing at this level after an uncertain introduction to First Division football, almost got the winner when his

shot was saved by Dragan Pupovac, who resorted to a number of punched clearances.

One of these in the 70th minute led to Chris Card sending in a lob over the out of position goalie which landed in the back of the net for the only goal of the game.

Ten minutes later Card almost repeated the trick, but this time a defender raced back to head the ball away to safety.

Avala had said goodbye to loan players Milan Blagojevic and Alex Bundalo during the week and perhaps it showed. They also had skipper Mirko Radosavljevic out injured and Chris Ackery taking tentative steps back to fitness via the Under-19 side.

SOUTHERN DISTRICTS: Pezzano, Ganc, Canosa, Moon Cheung, Ciaramella, Gregson, Genovese, Card, Hagan (Read 46), Tasdemir, Murray (Sacco 75).

AVALA: Pupovac, Vranovic, Ashton, Vukmirvic, Fitzharris, Benitez, Drieno, Berry, Divljak, Radosavljevic, El Ali.

REFEREE: John Jenkins.

Last gasp

BLACKTOWN CITY 2
POLONIA 1

BLACKTOWN City appeared likely to surrender a relatively easy three points and only come away with two, when in the dying stages of their home game with Polonia, Mike Gibson had to make a vital save to deny the live-wire Paul Richardson.

Nervous debutant goal-keeper 16 year old Gary McGee had a horror start to his State League career, conceding two goals in the first 12 minutes, but impressed with some sound work thereafter.

A depleted Polonia had to work hard to keep the rampaging Demons at bay and did well to pull a goal back in the 27th minute, making the task of settling the issue just that little bit harder for Blacktown.

Jarek Nowicki, by far Polonia's most effective player, did trouble the Blacktown side in the first three minutes, firstly sending his own shot wide and then seeing Paul Richardson sky a chance over the bar from his cross.

Blacktown took a 5th minute lead, Andy Callanan pushing the ball on to Paul Bourke, a pass to Gunning leading to a cross which Lawrie McKinna tucked under the rookie keeper for an early 1-0 scoreline.

Seven minutes later McKinna headed in

another Gunning cross at the far post, this time the ball arriving from the left.

An infringement of the rules between Demons keeper Mike Gibson and Craig Mason, the ball being returned without leaving the area, led to an indirect free kick for Polonia in the 27th.

The twice-taken free kick eventually saw the ball fall to newcomer Adam Kwasniewski who slammed his shot into the roof of the net.

As far as goals were concerned that was the end of it, but Blacktown kept up the relentless pressure for the remainder of the game without finding the net again.

Gunning and McKinna both muffed simple chances, but the young Polonia goalie also made some rather good saves as well, Eddie Lees and McKinna both having good shots dealt with brilliantly.

The win puts Blacktown into second spot and they are now looking a decided threat to the early pace-setters Sutherland.

BLACKTOWN CITY: M. Gibson, Longo, Langon (J. Gibson 46), Northam, Lees, Gunning, Mason, Callanan, Easthorpe (Highway 80), McKinna, Bourke.

POLONIA: McGee, P. Richardson, Kwasniewski, Lasak, M. Richardson (Hunter 62), C. Thompson, Gatt, Caruso (Colluso 71), Straszewski, Cooper, Nowicki.

REFEREE: Geoff Laverton.

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Oh Berries

C BURRY M/VILLE 0
ROCKDALE ILINDEN 1

CANTERBURY failed to flatter at Arlington Oval going down 1-0 to a rapidly improving Rockdale Ilinden, who won despite missing two penalties.

Tony Franken, back between the sticks for loan club Rockdale, was tested only once and that shot from Louis Dounis was early in the game.

Stewart Porter missed his two penalties in each half under quite different circumstances.

In the first half Zlatko Markovski stole the ball from a hesitant Charlie Yankos and was pulled down by John Radman, Porter sending his spot kick at the keeper.

In the second half, with Rockdale a goal up Blagoje Petrovski got the better of Radman, but as he went past, the defender handled and

this time Porter sent his penalty well wide of the goal.

Fortunately for Rockdale a well worked move, inspired by substitute Petrovski, provided the winner.

Petrovski got to the byline after an excellent run down the right, back heeled to Markovski and the latter's low cross was tapped in at the far post by the lurking Bruno Beddoni.

The win signals a real move on the leaders by Rockdale who are now playing to their full potential.

CANTERBURY-MAR-RICKVILLE: Olla, Rezo, Hantzis, Radman, Yankos, Slavevski, Kalogeraz, Katholos, Parison (Ilic 60), Dounis (Adamou 80), Oustambesidis.

ROCKDALE ILINDEN: Franken, Segreto, Lerond, Ralevski, Buchanan, Naumovski, Markovski, Devaridge (Petrovski 85), Wilson, Porter, Beddoni.

REFEREE: John Cameron.

Harriott capers!

LED by an opportunist second half hat trick from Paul Harriott, Waverley cemented their seven point lead at the top following their 4-1 win over an in-form Auburn.

It is inconceivable that Waverley, who have won their last four straight and are unbeaten in their last 12 outings could lose the Championship, and Auburn went into the clash attempting to contain the league leaders.

However, after 16 minutes Waverley were ahead, Robbie Jerkovic sweetly curling the ball home from 17 metres leaving keeper Ross Pinto stranded.

Safet Katovic levelled for Auburn within four minutes from the penalty spot following a hand ball, and although Pinto had to rescue the visitors in the 25th minute, the match was evenly balanced until the break.

Waverley again took the initiative seven minutes into the second half, Michael Smith smashing a free kick from 35 metres against the post before an ever alert Harriott knocked the rebound into the empty net.

Auburn, with their semi final hopes hanging in the balance logically went forward, Tony Perinich denied



from ten metres by a superb save from Les Behari before Harriott struck again, tapping home the killer goal following a mix up in the defence in the 70th minute.

Hassan Kdouh and Perinich again went close as Auburn took control late in the match, but the goal of the match three minutes from time from Paul Harriott following a great ball from Barry Walker, summed up Auburn's afternoon.

Cyprus United continued their push for the play offs, and sent Gladesville to their fourth defeat on the trot, with a tough 2-1 win at Christie Park.

Despite the absence of Tom Pontidas and Panikos Xiourouppas, who in four guest appearances had guided United towards the semi finals, the visitors were 2-0 up inside the first half hour.

Hajitofis steering the ball home over the wall from a free kick after five minutes and Greg Johnstone ripping

the defence to shreds before setting Manolopoulos free with an easy chance in the 28th minute.

Gladesville were back in the contest two minutes into the second half, Angelo Raguz bobbing up at the far post to head home, and from then on Gladesville dominated.

The best chance for the home side fell to Ralton Benna, who headed wide following a perfect cross from Paul Mammo.

Mt Druitt dented Campbelltown's semi final aspirations, holding the visitors to a 1-1 draw at Popondetta Park.

In a fast open affair both sides created plenty of opportunities, Wayne Farnsworth slammed his drive from outside the area into the crossbar for Mt Druitt after 21 minutes, while at the other end Hugo Gimenez was denied by a brilliant save from custodian Derek Jenkins.

Farnsworth put the home side ahead three minutes prior to the break from the spot after Darren Pratt was felled, however, as Mt Druitt looked to have done enough for the points, Hugo Gimenez pounced to net the equaliser following a goal-mouth melee 15 minutes from time.

Mt Pritchard, unbeaten in their last seven, continued to impress, picking up two points following their 1-1 draw at second placed Petersham.

One of the few sides showing any consistency, Mt Pritchard took the lead via a header flicked in by Tom McCulloch following a cross from the left in the tenth minute.

Petersham, looking to bridge the gap from Waverley at the top, hit back almost immediately, David Naylor heading home from a corner in the 14th minute.

Both sides could have wrapped up the points in the second half, Glen Jeffrey just missing the target and Darren Stephenson's diving header going wide for Petersham, while keeper Andrew Lacey denied the visitors with a fine save 13 minutes from the end.

Granville took over second spot following their 2-0 win at the Central Coast, first half goals provided by Christian Ortiz and Andy Ferris sent the Coasters to their fourth straight loss.

While certain wooden spooners Port Hacking slumped to their fifth loss on the trot, a 2-1 defeat at home to Dulwich Hill, with Berres providing both goals for the visitors.

WARATAH CUP

BLACKTOWN CITY 2
AVALA 1

AN almost full strength Avala, missing only Milan Blagojevic and Chris Ackersley from their available squad, found Blacktown's enthusiasm and direct approach too much to handle and went down to two beautiful headed goals by Geoff Gunning.

There was little between the two sides in the first half, but some free kicks awarded to the Avala team allowed that team to make use of its dead ball skills.

The absence of Blagojevic, who was left out at the last moment when he failed to come to terms for the game, was keenly felt.

In the very first minute Craig Williams had a shot deflected wide for a corner and Darren Northam sent a shot across the face of the goal in the 20th after a move begun by Andrew Callanan and involving Geoff Gunning.

Callanan was also just wide in the 31st with a well struck free kick from



GOALKEEPER MIKE GIBSON

35 metres for Blacktown who created most of the chances.

For Avala a diving header by Alex Bundalo was just wide of the left post following a 42nd minute corner from Tom Divljak.

Williams then threatened a ball through for Paul Bourke in the 44th, but the youngster was denied by swift covering defence.

Avala hit the lead in

the 48th minute, Tom Divljak finding a way round the wall when awarded a free kick on the edge of the box.

Avala had their best period soon after this, Stephen Berry intercepting a stray back pass and just shooting wide in the 52nd.

Blacktown then found themselves level when Paul Bourke, totally free on the right, despatched a diagonal cross to the far post and Gunning headed in the extreme corner with a well timed diving effort.

In the 79th Avala appeared to hang back allowing the Demons to send over a stream of crosses and have a number of long range shots in quick succession.

From the last of these the ball was sent over with the inswinging left foot of Lawrie McKinna and Gunning gave his side the lead with an almost identical header.

It could easily have been 3-1 had John Gibson or McKinna, sent away to confront Dragan Pupovac by a smart break down the left, been more decisive and had a shot when the opportunity presented itself.

As it was, Avala didn't appear to have anything left in reserve, especially after losing sweeper and captain Mirko Radosavljevic with a pulled muscle in the 67th minute.

Federation Vice President George Dick presented Demons skipper Craig Mason with the inaugural Waratah State Cup trophy, one the Blacktown side hopes to add to before the season ends, as their top five series hopes are very much alive.

BLACKTOWN CITY: M. Gibson, Longo, Callanan, Langon, Williams, Mason, Northam (Lees 48), Bourke (J. Gibson 79), McKinna, Bennett, Gunning.

AVALA: Pupovac, Drien (Vrankovic 48), Fitzharris, Vukmircic, Radosavljevic (Kupressanin 67), Divljak, Berry, Bundalo, El Al, Radovic, Ashton.

REFEREE: Gary Power.

Ryde romp

NORTH RYDE 5
NORTH ROCKS 1

WHEN Tracey Weston made a terrific run and set up Katrina Boyd in the seventh minute it looked as if North Rocks might carry out their threat and upset the apple cart by defeating hot ladies' favourites North Ryde.

The underdogs made the early running and Boyd did exceptionally well to shake off two defenders and round the 'keeper before placing the ball in the net from an awkward angle with a cool finish.

As the game wore on North Ryde began to take over and after a series of dangerous inswinging corners by Lisa Van Dorp had given North Rocks goalie Amanda Paterson some anxious moments, Moya Dodd managed to head in the equaliser as it came down off the bar.

This in the 25th minute and the pressure was intensified thereafter. Dodd hit the bar with a cracker in the 27th and Janine Riddington hit the post straight afterwards when the keeper spilled a cross and the ball had run free.

Moya Dodd from fully 25 metres clipped her shot over the head of Paterson in the 38th after a cross in by Carol Vinson, a well placed effort which would have drawn

plaudits at any level of the game and was appreciated by a rapidly growing crowd.

Having hit the front the North Ryde side went further ahead in the 42nd, Denise Pentecost sending over an angled cross from 30 metres out on the right on the box and was delighted to see her kick deceive the unfortunate North Rocks custodian.

Some clever footwork by Janine Riddington in the 48th minute led to the fourth goal, a delicate turn in the area and a perfect placement pleasing the team supporters.

The goalie was able to tip a Teresa McCann shot over in the 68th, but after an intense period towards the end, Vinson wrapped it up with a nice finish to a Riddington pass ending a game of high quality.

The inaugural Waratah State Cup for Women was presented to captain, Moya Dodd by Federation Vice President Jim Ronis in front of an estimated 1,500 spectators which provided Blacktown with their biggest crowd since their NSL days.

NORTH RYDE: Carney, Rayner, Van Dorp, Pentecost, McPhee, Lambort, Dodd, McCann, Vinson, Wardell, Riddington.

NORTH ROCKS: Paterson, Bartlett, Balzan (Bassett), Mleura, Yardin, Tann Brincav (Davies), Boyd, Weston, Smith, Redding.

REFEREE: Nick Condella.

Battle lines drawn

There is an increasing number of clubs in contention for the \$20,000 prize money awaiting the first past the post premiers.

Canterbury and Warringah have slipped a little and both Sydney Macedonia and Rockdale are making their presence felt. Sutherland are still going to be hard to catch and Canberra are still at their heels.

Before the weekend games, which include an additional game between Rockdale and Southern Districts on Saturday, a further made-up game between Polonia and Manly North Shore is set down for Popondetta Park tomorrow night (Wednesday 24th July).

Polonia had to call the game off originally just ten days ago and they have a good chance to cement a safe spot on the ladder if they can displace with Manly North

Shore.

The two deferred games could have a significant bearing on the relegation issue, for if Manly North Shore can secure some points and Southern Districts lose, the fight for survival will yet prove close.

The other way round and the Northerners will be in serious bother.

Southern Districts are buoyant at the moment and appear to have found a good combination. Paul Farmer has gone, Peter Murray has been injured often and Kevin Hagan has been unable to score goals, so the side has done well with a relatively inexperienced outfit at this level.

They could push Rockdale, but must be fancied against Polonia the next day, where the men from Chopin Park have suffered from a freakish run with

goalkeeper injuries and are battling to find a fit side to put out each week. Rockdale may win on Saturday, but Sunday could finish all square. The enigmatic Avala tackles the off the boil Canterbury at the Serbian Centre, a win for Avala being overdue and expected.

The other games are big ones. BHP Austral will give Blacktown something to think about, a draw looking likely in Newcastle on Saturday afternoon. Rockdale back up against Canberra on Sunday, hoping for three more points, but the Metro team will be a hard nut to crack and this time should come away from Sydney with three points. Sutherland are still on top, but no longer invincibly and they will have to work hard to overcome Warringah Freshwater. A home win is still forecast, but it won't be easy for the Sharks and

even a score draw would not displease either camp.

The other side chasing the lucrative prize money is Sydney Macedonia who now loom as a real threat to the early pace setters.

They travel to Cromer Park and would expect to win a game against a luckless Manly North Shore, but are not the best of travellers.

It would need a big turnaround for the home side at achieve a result here.

TOP GOAL SCORERS

10 Scott Gilbert (Syd Mac).

8 Tony Lemezina (Canb), Grant Bard (Sutherland), Bruno Beddohi (Rock).

7 Lawrie McKinna (Black), Stewart Porter (Rockdale), Jose Iriarte (Warr).

6 Robbie O'Shea (Suth), Paul Foster (Canb).



No 'grey areas' around here!

BY PAUL GOODWIN

NSW Soccer Federation President Peter Gray, who took over the position at the start of the season, has the pleasurable task of introducing clubs and the media to '1992 and Beyond' at a special function to be held at Valentine Park on Thursday week, August 1.

When Peter addresses the gathering of people on the issues confronting the Federation as it continues to look to the future, the 'Big Fella's' 190cm frame will ensure that he casts a high profile on those assembled, befitting a man of his achievements.

He reached the position at the age of 48 after a lifetime of continuous involvement as a player up to State League level, as a junior coach and as a highly motivated administrator.

Together with the Federation Board and their staff, Gray has worked out an outstanding package that will transform the NSW events that intend to

take a much more important hold on the sporting public of this State.

For Mr Gray it is hardly a case of being in the game for personal aggrandisement.

"My aim is to see NSW prove itself as the outstanding soccer State" he said.

"This calls for us to get the best out of the very talented people involved in the game at board, club and all other essential levels.

Peter Gray spent most of his playing career in goal, but he did begin as a field player with Bexley-Kingsgrove juniors in the St George District Association.

By eighteen he had joined the Punch-owl Under-18 side and from there he represented the adjoining Canterbury District.

In his senior career he collected clubs in a manner that would send practitioners such as The Great White Shark green with envy.

From Sutherland thirds he progressed to Apia seconds and thirds and thence on to Sydney Croatia seconds where he tasted first team football for the first time.

Back in 1962 he was with the now defunct

Corinthians, coached at the time by former Aston Villa and England star, Frank Broome.

Then came a return to home club Sutherland Shire, where he had three seasons in goal during their Second Division days.

Gray later became Terry Eaton's understudy at Melita Eagles, earning himself a healthy respect as the number two to the prince of goalkeepers.

His reputation came to the attention of Sydney Croatia coach Leo Baumgartner who recruited him as second string for his Soccerroo custodian Jim Fraser.

He stepped into the main job whenever Fraser was on international duty, lifting his total State League appearances to 20.

Peter's son's interest in the game saw him turning his hand to coaching with the Cronulla Seagulls, later taking his place on that club's committee and serving as President for the last five of his twelve years at the club.

Next he turned his attention to the Sutherland Shire State League club where he also served as President for five years, working particularly hard to forge a per-

manent link with the Port Hacking club which would see the latter become a feeder club for his beloved Sutherland.

Sadly it hasn't been a venture that has worked out in the long term, but it is something which could still happen in the future.

At the NSW level Peter Gray has been on the Board of Directors for six years, two as Treasurer and now new vistas are opening up before him as he takes the helm of the leading soccer state in this country.

On the business front Gray is Assistant Managing Director to his brother Bob at Sporting Supplies (Australia) Pty Ltd, operating in a field established by his late father.

Bob Gray, a former Sydney Daily Mirror sports journalist who ranged across the globe covering Olympic Games and so many of the world sports in which Australia excels, specialises in finance, leaving Peter to be the dynamic selling force of the partnership.

Patrick and King Roo are their big brand name winners. Australia-wide.

The Australian Soccer Federation stands to benefit by as much as \$250,000 from the Sporting Supplies royalties over the term of



NSW PRESIDENT PETER GRAY

the current four-year contract.

Amongst their other activities, the Company is the sole licensee for apparel to the 120,000-member strong NSW Amateur Soccer Federation.

In Queensland, they hold licenses to both the Queensland Soccer

Federation and the Queensland Rugby League, whilst in South Australia they have a valued sponsorship deal with the South Australian Soccer Federation.

Five NSW State League clubs use their gear as do leading NSL entities, Wollongong Wolves and Adelaide City.

All this activity creates a very busy lifestyle for Peter Gray.

But on Thursday week, he will find time to demonstrate his own and the Board's firm conviction that NSW Soccer will be bursting into song in '1992 and Beyond'.

Robbie Wheatley reports...

A highly capable quartet of players from St George and Marconi-Fairfield clubs were responsible for the latest round of country coaching clinics in regional towns that combine to make up the South West Soccer Association.

St George players John Filan and Matthew Bingley together with Marconi's Tom McCulloch and Robert Wheatley covered great distances to service places including Cootamundra, Young, Gundagai and Temora.

The Association itself also includes Tumut, Harden, and June in its set-up and when each of these places are around 50 kilometres or more from a central location, such as Cootamundra, you can imagine the amount of driving and organisation required for the enthusiastic soccer parents in each of these centres.

The success of the visit was enhanced by the innovative idea of having a round of the highly competitive Umbro Youth League played in Cootamundra the day before the promotional team arrived. Nepean and Sutherland transported their players, coaches and managers together with supporters to complete their Round 12 fixture in the country as a sign of friendship between all associations. The games were a talking point in Cootamundra when we arrived and our continuation of the promotional work could not have come at a better time.

One of the most noticeable features of the trip was the drop in temperatures and the fog. On one day the fog did not lift during the entire day and this meant that the night of training sessions were a matter of survival. All players commented that the change of the NSL seasons to a summer format meant that we really had not trained in winter for

more than two years. This did not stop hardened locals from attending sessions and staying throughout the night to pick up some tips from the players. Country hospitality was in evidence wherever we travelled and this allowed the team to complete a full programme.

The three-day trip involved the following visits:

Monday - Representative players aged from 11-16 in Cootamundra.
Tuesday - Cootamundra Public School, Southey PS.

-Representative and local club players aged from 8-15 in Young.

Wednesday - Gundagai Primary School (including players from South Gundagai and St Patricks).

-Rep. and local players in two sessions at Temora.

The overall aim of the promotional trips to the country over the last six weeks, including the travels around the South West Slopes, was to provide young play-

ers in schools, local clubs and representative sides with opportunities to learn new skills and improve basic parts of their individual game. The inclusion of eight different players to visit and coach players was aimed at an awareness of individual players who will be prominent in the soccer scene for years to come. We were also able to meet many coaches of local and representative teams who were very receptive to even the simplest coaching routines. On the promotional side, thousands of young players received soccer posters, stickers, books and advice from some of Australia's best players.

With most NSL clubs being on the verge of a leap forward, with the appointment of individual club development officers, the future should become brighter for many country areas and the benefits of previous promotional work will be underlined.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION LTD

STATE LEAGUE

ROUND 18

SATURDAY JULY 27

DIVISION 1

BHP Austral v Blacktown Austral Park

SUNDAY JULY 28

Polonia v Southern Districts Chopin Park
Avala v Cant/M'ville Serbian Centre
Rockdale Ilinden v Canberra Metro Hurstville Oval
Sutherland Shire v Warringah F/W Seymour Shaw
Manly Nth Shore v Sydney Macedonia Cromer Park

DIVISION 2

SUNDAY JULY 28

Dulwich Hill v Central Coast Arlington Oval
Granville Chile v Petersham Garside Park
Mt Pritchard v Gladsville Hby Mt Pritchard Gd
Cyprus United v Campbelltown Wentworth Park
Waveley v Port Hacking ES Marks Field
Auburn Yugal v Mt Druitt Town Mona Park

MATCH TIMES: (unless otherwise stated)

Reserve Grade commences at 12.30pm

First Grade commences at 2.30pm

PHONE RESULT SERVICE: 0055 22681

See State League action this week!

Too easy!

B. JUVENTUS 6
DOVETON 0

BY
GREG BLAKE

LEAGUE LEADER Brunswick Juventus powered to the biggest win of the 1991 Premier League season to date as it hammered cellar-dweller Deveton 6-0 at Middle Park on Sunday.

Two first half penalties, both converted by Doyle, were enough to set up the win for the home side, with Doug Hodgson handling to concede the first in the 25th minute and the second coming on the stroke of half time as Adrian Cox up-ended Brian MacNichol in the box.

Predictably, Juventus ran away after half time, with Di Amicis belting home from 16 metres to make it 3-0 just after the interval

and Steve Smith making it four on the hour as he ran on to MacNichol's through ball and lobbed Brad Zealley.

With still 20 minutes on the clock Juventus made it 5-0 as Smith challenged Zealley for a high cross, the ball spilling loose, and Minichiello was on the spot to slam a shot home.

Minichiello brilliantly set-up MacNichol for number six late in the match, with the 6-0 scoreline bettering the 5-0 efforts of Thomastown (v Doveton), Oakleigh (v St Albans), Bulleen (v Altona Gate) and St Albans (v Oakleigh) earlier in the 1991 season.

JUVENTUS: Laumets, Marley, Doyle, Corvan, Della Rocca, MacNichol, Smith, Minichiello, Ferla, Inglese (Sabatino), De Amicis (Mason).

DOVETON: Zealley, Brown, Cox, McMinamee, Hodgson, Pruill (Ireland), Bot, McCormack (Montgomery), Kazarian, Catmole, Luford.

VOTES: F. De Amicis (Juve) - 2
D. Hodgson (Dove) - 1

A real classic

ALBION 2
GREEN GULLY 3

BY
TONY ABATE

AFTER A FIRST-HALF dominated by incohesive play and futile high balls, Green Gully played some inspired soccer to send off the efforts of an Albion side 3-2, whose play was primarily fuelled on the adrenalin provided by the home crowd.

With the game turning into a fountain of dead-end moves, Sveto Rastocic broke deadlock in the 37th minute when he provided a piercing long ball which

Sasha Becvinovski converted with the utmost of ease past the hapless Ernie Toth.

Five minutes after the re-start, Rastocic increased Albion's sorrow after he converted a low cross from John Campelj which had previously squandered by the over zealous Becvinovski.

Nine minutes later, Becvinovski fully punished an awkward Bobby Russell foul when he sent a majestic ball which Toth could only palm into the path of a merciless David Azzopardi, who stunningly finished off the move which deserved an audience far greater than the one assembled at Selwyn Park.

Hopes for an Albion resurgence were rekindled once more in the 70th minute when Dale

White measured in a cross from the left which rebounded off the forehead of Don Macleod before Scott Patterson finished off the move with a lunging header.

As the travelling Gully faithful chanted its club's success, Macleod added respectability to the scoreboard for Albion when he blasted a low drive past Sant's right after receiving a pass from White.

ALBION: Toth, Butrakovski (Stefanac), Grimaud, James, Russell, Carter, Kadlicek (R. Chetcuti), Patterson, White, Freund, Macleod.

GREEN GULLY: Sant, Hogben, Campelj (Ciantar), Kuzman, Chetcuti, Rastocic (Attard), Belic, Becvinovski, Hunter, Azzopardi, Smart.

VOTES: T. James (Albion) - 1
S. Becvinovski (G. Gully) - 2

Ten and out

ALTONA GATE 0-
FAWKNER 0

BY
VLADO VLAHOVIC

TITLE-CONTENDERS, Altona Gate and Fawkner, both reduced to 10 men, shared the points after a scoreless draw to drift slightly further away from current kingpin Brunswick Juventus.

Both Altona and Fawkner played an even free-flowing yet mistake-riddled game for some 80 minutes, before suddenly the game exploded into a frenzy of end-to-end action to finally excite the good-sized crowd for the remaining 10 minutes.

Altona coach Roy MacLaren and Fawkner chairman Frank Calabria both differed in their appraisal of their respective team's efforts; both claiming moral victory.

Calabria was angered by referee Bernie Upjohn's decision to send-off Phil Stubbins, who allegedly pushed Altona's Peter Nicoski away, behind play, in retaliation for allegedly being spat upon. After only 22 minutes of play

both players were given an early shower.

Referee Upjohn was sucked in by Nicoski's acting, alleged Calabria.

Although the match was even for the most part, both sides had their chances to win, however, Altona definitely had more clearer opportunities to score.

ALTONA GATE: A. Milceviski, S. Milceviski, Momirovski, Kebakoski, McMillan, Z. Markovski, Nicoski, Davis, J. Markovski, Egan (Georgievski).

FAWKNER: Anastasiadis, Walsh, Tomblato, Viatkovic (Emmanuel), Schipano, Wilson, Lucchesi, Hanna, McBride, Reire, Stubbins.

VOTES: A. Davis (Altona) - 1
C. Lucchesi (Fawks) - 1

Dour stuff

THOMASTOWN 0
NORTHCOTE 1

BY
PETER KOTSIRIS

IN WHAT WAS hardly an awe-inspiring game a more determined Northcote City defeated a lethargic Thomastown by the odd goal at Partridge Reserve.

The first half was a very scrappy affair with neither team dominating on the bumpy pitch but it was during this period that Northcote took the decisive lead.

Ten minutes before the break a speculative 35 metre shot by Jim Constantinou led to an uncharacteristic blunder by Thomastown keeper Robert Brian, the shot deflected off his chest to result in dire

consequences, quick-thinking John Metaxas pounced to ram the loose ball home.

Thomastown had their best chance of the game to equalise when a good combination between big Peter Cocker and substitute George Mihos resulted in Gerry McAleer's cheeky back-heel from mid-air to fly past the far post.

THOMASTOWN: Brian, De Propertia, Di Martino, Karic, Cocker, O'Donnell (Giaccherini), Cristaldo, MacLaren (Mihos), Beklaris, Murphy, McAleer.

NORTHCOTE: Terudis, Mesourouni, N. Constantinou, Anzakis, Illopoulis, Kouremenos, Panagopoulos, Gymnopoulis, Melkias (Nalpanitidis), Kokkinos, J. Constantinou.

VOTES: P. Cocker (Thown) - 1
A. Gymnopoulis (North) - 2

Via Veneto

BULLEEN 2
CROYDON 0

BY PETER SIOMOS
BULLEEN GAINED two more valuable points in their race for the title when they downed Croydon City 2-0 at the Veneto complex on Sunday.

Bulleen played some superb football and their 2-0 win was thoroughly deserved with an all round solid display.

The Veneto boys started off well and Stan Thodis and Darren Tuck were causing their Croydon counterparts plenty of problems with their blistering pace.

Bulleen's first opportunity came ten minutes into the clash when Fab Incantalupo put through Damian Mori and he hit his shot across the face of goal and just out of reach of the on-rushing Con Pappas.

Croydon's best chance of the game came in the 18th minute when David Klepac sent a

pin-point cross to Andy Humble who from right in front put his header straight into the arms of keeper Mauro Raponi.

Tuck, who was superb on the left flank conjured up Bulleen's opener in the 22nd minute, he pounced on a loose ball in the box and carved himself some space before thundering a left foot shot past the hapless Mirko Runje.

In the 56th minute, a long clearance from the Bulleen defence saw Mori from inside his own half collect the ball, and with no defenders in sight, he sprinted away to coolly pass Runje and kill of any remaining Croydon hopes.

BULLEEN: Raponi, Krnjacic, Valentic, Ruccia, Marsan, Tuck, Mori, Thodis, Pappas, Incantalupo (Vennaver), Grbac.

CROYDON: Runje, Opalinis (Lennon), Brack, Brown, Nolan, Dobson, Humble, McArthur, McGeech, Klepac, Field.

VOTES: S. Thodis (Bull) - 1
A. Humble (Croyd) - 1

Wright on

MOOROOLBARK 1
MORWELL FALCONS 4

BY
JOE COLOSIMO

TITLE-CONTENDER Morwell Falcons sent Mooroolbark crashing back to the State League after a convincing 4-1 win, however, they can and must improve if they are to peg back league leader Juventus in the final six rounds.

Billy Wright, the inspiration behind many Morwell forward thrusts ran from the half-way line to slam the ball home at the second attempt after a fine initial block from keeper Martin Posar.

Mooroolbark then stepped up a gear and came close to scoring after quarter-of-an-hour when David McIntosh headed onto the bar.

Against the run of play a Morwell corner was only half cleared to allow Anthony Cassar to volley home from 25 yards.

In the final five minutes of the first half, Mooroolbark managed to pull one back when Morwell defender Gary Upton attempted a 40-metre back-pass to keeper Reynolds, but instead found the top corner of the net with a mistimed lob to everyone's astonishment.

Contrary to the first-half show, the second-half paled into a boring, lack-lustre display with rare highlights worth mentioning.

An Anthony Cassar free-kick found Danny Nield, who finally broke his scoring drought to make it 3-1 and in injury time a Morwell cross was dropped by keeper Posar to allow Kevin Harrison to round off the scoreline at 4-1 with a simple tap-in.

MOOROOLBARK: Posar, Burton, A. Byrne, Hobson, McIntosh, Mantel, Cooke (Joblin), Cooper (Campbell), D. Byrne, Brogan, Tzavelidis.

MORWELL FALCONS: Reynolds, Upton, Harris, A. Cassar (Saldacchino), Roodhouse, Pender, McMullen, Nield, Harrison, Daly, Wright.

VOTES: B. Burton (M'bar) - 1
A. Cassar (Morwell) - 2

Ivan great

ST ALBANS 5-
OAKLEIGH 0

BY
TONY ABATE

ST ALBANS' loan striker Ivan Kelic mesmerised his Oakleigh opponents with a four-goal rampage in Dinamo's 5-0 demolition job at Churchill Reserve on Saturday.

Dinamo started its goal-bound trek after only 15 minutes, when little speedster Ollie Pondejak ran onto a long clearance from Hassan Skenderovic, to find the back of the net with a harmless shot that took a deflection from nervous goalkeeper Nick Maniatis.

Three minutes before the interval Pondejak set-up Kelic with a simple task, after a sparkling run on the right which included some dribbling mastery and eventually a cut-back past raw keeper Maniatis and his adjoining defenders who were caught out of position.

Immediately after the re-start Brad Johnson made a run which was fuelled on pure grit and fired in a cross which was tailor-made for the head of Kelic for 3-0.

In the 50th minute, Mark Silic constructed a through ball which caught the Oaks defence embarrassingly square as Kelic hit an unrelenting shot past the hapless Maniatis.

In the 77th minute, Skenderovic could have made it 5-0 with a wind-breaking drive which Maniatis deflected over the bar — with some re-found confidence.

However, goal number five did arrive on the stroke of full-time when Silic crossed to Kelic, who guided the ball into the net with a towering header.

OAKLEIGH: Maniatis, Bitoanis, Gourlas, Vagias, Arellis, Haidaris, Haidford, Leonardos, Zemunik, Stefanou, Lulic.

ST ALBANS: Grbic, Radic (Gagula), Collina, Skenderovic, Katsakidis, Vanis, Bacak, Silic, Pondejak, Kelic, Johnson.

VOTES: I. Kelic (St Albs) - 2
N. Haidaris (Oaks) - 1

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Fawkner in a fight for glory

Vlado Vlahovic's State Preview

FAWKNER Azzurri has its best chance to remain in the title hunt by downing league leader and Italian-backed rival Brunswick Juventus this Sunday at Jukes Road.

Fawkner has revenge on its mind after its earlier season defeat at Juve's hands, and the prize would be a closer look at the championship cup.

Fawkner would give aspiring teams like Altona Gate, Morwell Falcons and Bulleen a chance by throwing the title-race wide open and create an intriguing climax to the inaugural Premier League season.

Juventus keep machining ahead even after its recent loss of key

player Sean Lane, out for the season with a broken ankle.

Jeff Doyle, Steve Marley and John Corvan have been strong in defence for Juve all season, whilst the revelation has been the form of Queenslander Brian MacNichol, a speedy attack-minded winger-forward.

Fawkner, on the other hand, are no slo-ouches. There's no doubt Fawkner has the flair and skill to match Juve but its Juke's Road home ground resembles a mud bath more than a soccer ground.

Commitment and strength will be the vital assets required to win this big derby clash, rather than panache and style, in what should be one of the battles of the season.

RELEGATION-haunted Northcote City and Mooroolbark battle it out for pride this Sunday at John Cain Reserve.

Northcote and Mooroolbark need a minor miracle to escape relegation woes. Both sides would need Albion and St Albans to lose a few games whilst winning a few of their own in quick succession.

TITLE-fancies Morwell Falcons face lowly St Albans at North Crinigan Reserve this Saturday.

Morwell Falcons need to keep winning and hope Juventus drop a point here and there, and this week's match with St Albans Dinamo is a real danger game for the flying Falcons.

Dinamo's loan players, Mark Silic, Andrew Marth, Ivan Kelic, Chris Ketsakidis and Joe Bacak, will prove a handful for any opposition and this spells 'danger' for the Latrobe Valley giants.

RELEGATION-doomed Doveton tackle another title-aspirant, Bulleen Veneto at Waratah Reserve on Saturday.

Doveton have the dubious distinction of being without a single win after 20 completed rounds, and if they popped up to beat the likes of Bulleen it would be the shock of the year.

ALTHOUGH Croydon and Thomastown are no longer title threats, they should still produce a fine clash at the marvellous Dorset Gardens complex on Sunday.

Both Croydon and Thomastown still have a desire to finish in a respectable position, preferably in the top four, and this alone will ensure a top contest.

ALSO-RAN Oakleigh and luckless Albion Turk-Gucu battle it out at Caloola Reserve on Sunday.



JIM CONSTANTINOU (Northcote) leaves Fawkner's Roy Walsh sprawling.

Albion have lost some close decisions this season, but are still plugging away with some hearty performances and they will need plenty of courage against the likes of Oakleigh.

Oakleigh has played some inspirational football since the arri-

val of Heidelberg loan player Angie Goutzioulis and will want to finish the season as the most improved side in the Premier League.

BATTLING Green Gully tackles high-flying title-aspirant

Altona Gate with the desire to cause the boilover of round 21 at Gully Reserve on Sunday.

Premier League top-scorer, Sasha Becvinnovski has hit form again recently and would no doubt like to play a major role in a

huge upset.

With the recent return of midfield dynamos Peter Nicoski and Klime Asimoski, Altona can look forward to its title race home with added confidence but this week's hurdle, Green Gully, is definitely out to blow the Altona boys off course.

THIS WEEK

Sat, 27th July Round 21
Morwell Falcons v St Albans,
Doveton v Bulleen.

Sun, 28th July
Croydon City v Thomastown,
Oakleigh v Albion, Green Gully v
Altona Gate, Fawkner v Brunswick
Utd Juventus, Northcote City v
Mooroolbark.

STATE LEAGUE DIV. ONE

Sat, 27th July Round 23
Essendon City v Western Suburbs,
Knox City v Bye, Port Melbourne v Wertheim.

Sun, 28th July
Frankston Pines v Caulfield
City, Box Hill v North Geelong,
Melbourne City v Bell Park,
Ringwood City v Westgate, Mor-dale v Springvale City.

STATE LEAGUE DIV. TWO

Sat, 27th July Round 23
Dandenong v Sandringham
City, Doncaster Rovers v Clifton
Hill, Kolor v Chelsea, Suna
Heights Polonia v Broadmeadows City, Geelong v Altona
City, Nunawading City v Brighton,
Rusmond v Waverley City,
Bentleigh Greens v Sunbury
United.

STATE LEAGUE DIV. THREE

Sat, 27th July Round 21
Oakleigh Suburbs v Fitzroy
City, Moorabbin City v Seaford
United, East Brunswick v Springvale Utd, Loral United v
Clayton, Heidelberg City v Moreland/Coburg, Eltham/Dia Valley
Utd v Clarinda.

STATE LEAGUE DIV. FOUR

Sat, 27th July Round 21
Boronia v Langwarrin, Yarra-ville v Mornington, Karingal Utd v
Pascoe Vale, South Dandenong
v Hamlyn Rangers, Springvale
Cordons v Bye, Rosanna v Cran-bourne, Regent v Hawthorn
Citizens.

PROV LEAGUE DIV. ONE

Sat, 27th July Round 19
South Wertheim v Westvale,
Altona East v Williamstown,
South Springvale v Brunswick
City, Knox Park v Forest Hill,
North Sunshine v Melton Mal-vern City v Benwick City, Frank-son United v Yarrum.

PROV LEAGUE DIV. TWO

Sat, 27th July Round 19
Mentone United v Masado Park, East Geelong v Hoppers
Crossing, Lyndale United v Uni-Of Melbourne, Eastern Park
Brothers v Wertheim, Loral v Nth
Geenroy St Marks, Keysborough
v Ballarat, Bye v Brandon Park.

PROV LEAGUE DIV. THREE

Sat, 27th July Round 18
St Kilda v Port United, Mon-bulk v Ringwood Rovers,
Monash University v South Yar-ra, Glenroy v Waverley United,
Micheam United v Batman Un-ited, Kew Eagles v Carrum Un-ited, Hampton Park v East Rich-mond.

PROV LEAGUE DIV. FOUR

Sun, 28th July Round 19
Oakleigh United v Old Scotch,
Bye v Riversdale, Latrobe Uni-versity v Sunshine Park, Diggen-Res v Waverley Wanderers,
Malvern Lennox v Beaumaris,
Kolor United v Collingwood City,
East Kew v St Wertheim Crestan

PROV LEAGUE DIV. FIVE

Sun, 28th July Round 19
Diamond Valley v Northern United, Melbourne University v
Bye, Doncaster Inter v Upfield,
Cam Grammar Old Boys v RMIT, Thornbury Furlan Utd SC
v Balwyn City, Endeavour Hills v
Broadmeadows Utd, Albert Park
Mascabi v Epping Concordia.

Toms are terrific

BY GREG BLAKE

A spectacular early second half goal by speedster Lou Bekiaris propelled Thomastown to a hard-fought 2-1 win over Oakleigh in last Wednesday night's re-scheduled round 16 Premier League fixture at Partridge Reserve.

Bekiaris, after winning the ball just inside his own half, took off with a lightning burst which took him past three defenders and to the edge of the box, where he drew the keeper and angled his final shot inside the far post.

Bekiaris' effort gave Thomastown a two goal buffer, following a 22nd minute Don McLaren opener, a shot from eight metres which took a wicked deflection past impressive Oakleigh keeper Nick Alexandropoulos.

The margin allowed the home side to hang on desperately against an Oakleigh team which hit back hard

after the break and tested Thomastown keeper Bob Brian on a number of occasions.

Oakleigh's best chance came when Stefanou hit the woodwork, whilst Aretis tested Brian, who pulled off the save of the match in the 70th minute.

Oakleigh's lone goal came from NSL guest Angie Goutzioulis, in his final game with the

club, who scored from the penalty spot with 12 minutes to play after Cristaldo fouled Haidaris in the box.

THOMASTOWN: Brian, DiMartino, DeProteris, Karic, Cocker, Cristaldo, O'Donnell (Tsangas), McLaren (Luna), Bekiaris, Murphy, McAleer.

OAKLEIGH: Alexandropoulos, Bitsonis, Gourleas, Vagias, Haidaris, Leonardos, Aretis, Goutzioulis, Stefanou, Zemunik, Lujic.

VOTES: P.Cocker (Thom) - 1
N.Haidaris (Oak) - 1.



ANGIE GOUTZIOULIS



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GREG BLAKE PULLS NO PUNCHES

Hellas on big tour

SOUTH Melbourne Hellas, the reigning Australian champions, fly out of Melbourne tomorrow (Wednesday) for an historic tour of Greece, taking in matches against crack club sides PAOK, Larisa and Panathinaikos.

And club president George Vasilopoulos had a word of warning for the Greek clubs on the eve of the tour, saying that Hellas wasn't going to Europe for a holiday.

"This (the tour) is a very big thing for us and we are taking things very seriously indeed", he said.

"It's an historic event for our club, going to Greece as the Australian champions.

"It has never happened before and it might never happen again, so we want to give the best that we can".

New signing Gary Hasler will go on tour with the Middle Park outfit.

Hasler was finally signed from Sunshine George Cross last week for \$15,000, following protracted negotiations between the two clubs over the transfer fee.

"There is no doubt we wanted Hasler, he is a fine player and we were prepared to pay more than the \$13,500 transfer maximum", said the Hellas supremo.

And, according to Vasilopoulos, the often outlandish front man will be his club's only new signing for the 1991-92 NSL season, ending speculation that South Melbourne was searching for a replacement for grand final



The enthusiasm of youth! Celebrations by Sunshine George Cross' stars Gary Hasler (left), David Clarkson and Derek Hunter. Photo by JOE MONTEMURRO.

goalkeeper Bruce Mac Laren.

Vasilopoulos admitted that young St George custodian, John Filan, had been a one-time consideration for the club, but that a \$50,000 plus price-tag had put South Melbourne well and truly out of the market for his services.

"I'll admit that my first choice was Filan and we spoke to St George about him", said Vasilopoulos.

"Talia (George Cross youngster Frank Talia) was also discussed, but in the end we decided that we were happy with Mike Liliakakis (South Melbourne's current youth team keeper) as Bruce's

back-up".

With MacLaren unavailable for the Greece trip, unsettled Heidelberg and former Socceroo veteran Jeff Olver will take his place between the sticks as a guest of Hellas in Europe.

But Vasilopoulos has denied press speculation that Olver is likely to turn out for the Middle Park club in the NSL this season, despite the fact that Olver is in dispute with the Bergers over a planned pay-cut.

"He (Olver) is definitely part of the touring party but that is as far as we are concerned", Vasilopoulos told ABSW.

"Peter Tsakhis (Heidelberg president) and I

discussed the situation recently and I believe that his club's new coach, Gary Cole, wants to retain Jeff for next season.

"The fact is that we needed a goalkeeper for the tour and Jeff is one of the best around".

Hellas will retain a 16-man squad for the next summer campaign, including finals hero Joe Palatsides.

There was some speculation about the future of Palatsides with the inclusion of Hasler into the squad, but Hasler will move into the elite 16 at the expense of defender Harry Micheil, who has been transfer-listed by the club.

To indicate just how serious Hellas is about success on tour, the club has been in training three nights per week over the last month in preparation for the games.

The tour, which is costing the club in the region of \$150,000, will take in matches against PAOK on August 4, and Panathinaikos, on August 11, with a further match against Larisa in between those two dates.

PLANS for a Victorian-based, Italian-backed 'super team' have been put on hold until the end of the Victorian Premier League 1991 season.

Premier League clubs Brunswick Juventus, Thomastown and Bulleen, supposedly the main protagonists in the plan, are set to meet in a round-table conference towards the end of the season to discuss the likelihood of a 'Melbourne Italia' club being formed.

Despite the failure of proposed Italian club mergers in past years, the clubs are said to be close to agreement with the chance of an NSL place the main lure.

The clubs see an Italian 'combine' being the only practical solution to the situation which leaves Melbourne as the only major NSL centre without Italian representation.

The Premier League boasts five primarily Italian supported clubs, with Bulleen, Thomastown, Fawkner and regional-based Morwell Falcons all in competition against former NSL title winner Brunswick Juventus.

Juve and Morwell, despite impressive bids for inclusion in the revamped NSL competition for the coming season, both missed promotion under the criteria of the controversial Bradley Report.

The Italian clubs, despite the reservations of many grass roots supporters reluctant to lose their club's individual identities, see the Italian show of strength, with each club making a contribution, as the only way to break back into NSL calculations in the near future.

Fawkner, which came within an ace of throwing in its lot with Juventus back in 1985, is likely to be the only dissenter amongst the ranks.

Morwell, based in the Latrobe Valley, is also content to go it alone given that it is already perceived as a local club with a broad support base and, as such, is a future NSL club in its own right.

Bulleen, one of the most progressive clubs in Victoria, Thomas-

town — which had talks with Juventus on the, subject 12 months ago — and Juventus itself are the three clubs in the thick of the 'off the record' talks.

Despite the demals at official level, the unofficial talks have already been on in earnest between club heavyweights.

Premier League chairman Joe Caruso, himself a former long-time official at Juventus, says the chances of an Italian combine becoming a reality in the near future are "the same as winning Tattslotto twice in the same week".

But Thomastown's Tony Raponi, like a number of officials, admits to being favourable to the concept.

"But there's plenty of time yet", Raponi told ABSW.

"We'll get the league out of the way first and perhaps consider things down the line a bit".

The Victorian Soccer Federation has indicated it would support the moves and Caruso himself is an advocate of the idea.

"On behalf of the Italian community, it is the best thing that could happen", he said recently.

"The Italian community deserves a very successful NSL team.

"It was proven that a portion of the Italian community could have success (with Juventus) in the early 1980s.

"Imagine what could happen with the support of the entire Italian community".

Juventus president Maria Carmignani, like most club officials, are treating the suggestions as rumour for the time being.

But the Juve supremo conceded that she "wouldn't mind sitting around the table and discussing the issue".

"Our club certainly wouldn't say no to that", she said.

Bulleen, whose set-up at the Veneto Club would be considered as the home base for a 'Melbourne Italia', has denied receiving correspondence outlining the concept of a series of meetings to discuss the issue.

"But we would be interested in talking to see what is being suggested", said spokesman Pat Saladino.

"If someone wants to talk to us we will do so".

The success of an Italian merger plans depends on two key elements: the inclusion of Brunswick Juventus and ensuring that none of the existing Italian clubs lose their separate identities.

The popular suggestion is that a 'Melbourne Italia' side would be the figurehead for the Italian clubs, with the likes of Bulleen and Thomastown retaining separate identities and playing in the lower divisions, acting as feeder clubs for the major league side.



RINO MINICHELLO — Juventus.

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OUR YOUNG

A JOURNEY TO ITALY TO TEST RULES

AUSTRALIA will meet the German national under 17 team in a warmup match for the world under 17 soccer championships in Italy next month.

National youth coach Les Scheinflug last week named the 18-member squad which will leave Sydney later this month for final preparation in Holland.

The team consists of seven players from NSW, four from Victoria, three from South Australia and one each from Queensland, Western Australia, the ACT and Northern NSW.

"Playing against the German team will be a great experience for the players, especially as the Germans did so well in the European qualifying rounds," said assistant coach Raul Blanco.

"We have three games lined up in Germany and at least two in Holland to bring the Australians to a peak

for the championship: start in Italy.

"This team is following exactly the same procedure as the under 20 side which finished fourth in the world finals last month in Portugal."

Blanco said the widespread selection of players from nearly all States indicated the standard was getting better at that age level around Australia.

But he said the better players seemed to concentrate in NSW and Victoria as soon as they moved into National League teams.

Australia finished on top in the Oceania qualifying rounds, beating New Zealand 1-0 in the deciding match.

They will assemble in camp in Sydney this week before leaving for Holland.

The competition starts on August 16 and Australia are drawn in Group B in Carrara with Congo, Qatar and Mexico.

The squad:

S. Wardle (South Melbourne Hellas), J. Pires (Adelaide Hellas), T. Josevski (St George U19), A. Healey (South Melbourne Hellas), C. Moore (North Star Qld), P. Dee (St George District), A. Carbone (AIS), F. Macolino (St George U19), V. Kalogarakos (AIS), A. Kiratzoglou (South Melbourne Hellas), V. Trpceviski (Sunshine George Cross), M. Coutovidis (Salisbury United SA), L. Campagna (St George District), T. Haythornwaite (Mehta), D. Iocca (Marconi), P. Agostino (Adelaide Hellas), D. Usaly (St George U19), G. Callinan (Adamstown Rosebuds).

OFFICIALS

L. Scheinflug (Assistant National Coach), R. Blanco (Assistant Coach), H. Woods (Gear Steward), D. Williams (Head of Delegation), P. Georgiopoulos (Physiotherapist), R. Muratore (Doctor).

Change isn't needed

RULE changes are evidently very much on FIFA's mind these days.

The sheer dreariness of the 1990 World Cup has produced a groundswell for change, and a flood of suggestions as to just what should be done to bring excitement back to the sport.

Obviously, many of these suggestions (probably most of them) are going to be impractical if not downright dumb, but FIFA claims that it is giving due consideration to allow them. Possibly.

Before Italia '90, FIFA announced that the tournament would feature a new rule — the red card for a professional foul. Whether or not it is a positive change (and many think that it is) it did cause some problems in Italy. Simply because players, coaches and referees alike were not used to it.

It is, after all, a rather odd situation when you ask teams to play all the qualifying games under one set of rules — then change the rules for the pressure-packed final tournament. Can you imagine Aussie rules changing rules — just before their grand final?

Yet FIFA seems to have learned very little from that uncomfortable experience. Because here it goes again — bringing in important rule changes in the final round of a World Cup tournament. This time it's the U17 World

Cup — to be played in Italy next month.

Looking on the bright side and assuming that the tournament does take place, then it will be played under rules that are radically different from the sport's regular rules. FIFA has decided that the following changes will be introduced in the tournament — as an experiment.

- Offside will be limited to an 18-yard deep area at each end of the field.

- The goalkeeper will not be allowed to handle backpasses from his teammates — he will have to use his feet to play the ball.

- Whenever the goalkeeper takes possession of the ball (in his hands, or with his feet) he will be allowed only six seconds to release it (or, as FIFA put it, "to whisk the ball back into play").

The offside-rule change is utterly ridiculous — it has been tried more than once, and it doesn't work. It keeps defenders anchored to their own 18-yard line, which is hardly a help for attacking play, and encourages teams to hoof the ball from one end of the field to the other, which does absolutely nothing for mid-field play. Making the goalkeeper use his feet — in other words, going some way toward turning him into a real soccer player, is an excellent idea. The six-second restriction sounds good — but one can

Whenever the goalkeeper takes possession of the ball, with hands or feet, he is allowed only six seconds to release it.

predict all sorts of enforcement problems.

What concerns is the introduction of these changes in the U17 World Cup tournament. Suddenly, a group of 16-year-old boys — boys who can hardly yet be considered mature players — is to be asked to play soccer in a way that it has never been played before.

And given the certainty that the offside experiment will never be approved — in a way that they will never have to play it again.

All of this, in what will be the most important games that these boys have ever played. Quite possibly the most important games they will ever play in their lives, for only a small percentage of boys who are stars as 16-year-olds go on to achieve fame as professionals.

Is any of this necessary? Far from it.

The boys involved have not yet been bludgeoned (should I say "coached"?) into sterile role-playing.

Some of the most enjoyable, and most memorable, games over the past years have been in Youth World Cups. Competitive, full of good attacking soc-

cer, mercifully devoid of the nauseating gamesmanship that disfigures the pro game. This tournament, above all others, does not need tampering with.

Nations qualified for the finals with a team that played under the normal rules. With players who were chosen because they could play well under those rules. But now what? The new rule will undoubtedly alter the way in which a team plays its basic tactics. Could that entail a change in the players?

Coaches confess that the rule changes are "not something that I particularly welcome. Teams are not going to come out, they'll have to hold three or four players back on their 18-yard line — and we play best against teams that push up. They will have to consider changes — either in personnel, or in the way that we play. At the moment most try to win mid-field. But that doesn't make sense if you've got 80 yards between the offside lines and people are just going to bang the ball over the top."

A distressing possibility looms. That the U17 World Cup will be



LES SCHEINFLUG



RAUL BLANCO

lost because of a hapless, confused young player simply forgets what he is supposed to be doing. A defender, faithful to years of playing under years of the normal rules, moves upfield, leaving an opponent fatally onside behind him. Or a goalkeeper instinctively picks up a pass from a defender. Or an equally confused referee makes the wrong call at a crucial moment.

Of all the times to introduce rule changes, the short, final round of a cup competition must surely be the worst. FIFA referee instructor Stanley Lover has this to say: "I don't think it's the right way to test a serious change in the laws. A few games cannot give us enough information to tell if it's worthwhile."

The ideal way to test a rule change is over a whole season of, say, 40 games in a high-level pro league. In this way, the impact of the change begins gradually, as teams get used to the new idea in early season games that are not vital. As the season progresses, players and coaches will be adapting their thinking and their playing to exploit or counter the new rules.

Experienced players, that is. But... sixteen-year-old boys? Is FIFA really suggesting that the experiences of these youngsters in a handful of games should set the pattern for the rest of the world?

No. It cannot be.

PIONEERS

A SERIES IN THE LAP OF THE GODS



When why are these boys being used as rule guinea pigs? Possibly, it is simply expediency. FIFA runs the various World Cups, it can do what it likes with them. That is much easier and much quicker than getting a national association to persuade one of its leagues to go alone with a rule experiment.

No, it cannot be that either. Because FIFA has had two World Cups this summer — the U20 version staged in Portugal in June. Surely that tournament — with older, professional players — would have been a better testing ground? Apparently, FIFA does not think so, for the U20s played the regular rules. Come to that, what about the 1992 Olympic tournament? Why could not these changes be tried out throughout the entire sequence of the Olympics — qualifying and final round games?

One is left to ponder, rather reluctantly, the thought that the U17 World Cup is being used as a sort of rules laboratory because it is considered of less importance than the other competitions.

In one sense, it clearly is less important. In the banal commercial sense. The U17 tournament will never be a money-maker, will always have trouble attracting major sponsors. That, unfortunately, is the reality of youth soccer.

But the U17 World Cup has something more to offer than mere self. Ironically, it puts on display the very qualities whose absence at the pro level FIFA is so highly lamenting. The early qualities that these changes are supposed to bring back. In the U17 World Cup they are already there: excitement, skillful attacking soccer, and teamwork. In those things, yes, these boys can set the pattern for the rest of the sport.



THE NATIONAL U-17 SQUAD BOUND FOR ITALY

We will need to be very fit and strong.

AUSTRALIAN soccer players will need the stamina of Robert de Castella to adjust to the experimental rules for the World Under 17 championships in Italy next month.

This was stated by national youth coach Les Scheinflug as he started the countdown

for the Joeys in their effort to become the second Australian team to win a world championship soccer medal.

Under the experimental changes to be used in Italy, a player will not be ruled offside in the final 18 yard area and the goalkeeper cannot pick up any ball passed back to him in his own half.

"There will be such a

huge gap in midfield because we will need to keep two forwards in the scoring area with one midfielder between them and the defence," said Scheinflug.

"Players will need to be able to sprint and have stamina to run the entire match."

The Australians took part in club matches this weekend and assemble this week in

Sydney for two days training before flying to the Papendal Sports Centre in Holland.

They started their final stage program last week with a 3-1 win and 3-3 draw against the Tasmanian Under 20 side.

"They're in reasonable condition but I have to get them much fitter with international matches," coach Scheinflug said.

"Matches have already been arranged in Holland, including Club Brugge Under 20 but the bigger games will be in Germany where we play the German Under 17 national side and hopefully two club sides.

"We will follow exactly the same program that was used for the Under 20 team and we're looking for a better result even!"



1ST U-17 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THE FIFA/JVC CUP

ITALY, 16 — 31.8.1991



Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
Viareggio (Montecatini)	Carrara	Massa	Livorno
Italy USA China PR Argentina	Congo Qatar Australia Mexico	Sudan U.A.E. Germany Brazil	Ghana Cuba Uruguay Spain

DATE	MATCH NO	VENUE	HOUR	TEAM	TEAM
FRI 16.8.91	1	MONTecatini	18.30	A1 Italy	v. A2 USA
SAT 17.8.91	2	VIAREGGIO	21.00	A3 China PR	v. A4 Argentina
	3	CARRARA	21.00	B1 Congo	v. B2 Qatar
	5	MASSA	21.00	C1 Sudan	v. C2 U.A.E.
	7	LIVORNO	21.00	D1 Ghana	v. D2 Cuba
SUN 18.8.91	6	MASSA	19.00	C3 Germany	v. E1 Brazil
	4	CARRARA	21.00	B3 Australia	v. B4 Mexico
	8	LIVORNO	21.00	D3 Uruguay	v. D4 Spain
MON 19.8.91	REST DAY				
TUE 20.8.91	9	VIAREGGIO	17.00	A1 Italy	v. A3 China PR
	10	VIAREGGIO	19.00	A2 USA	v. A4 Argentina
	11	CARRARA	19.00	B1 Congo	v. B2 Qatar
	13	MASSA	19.00	C1 Sudan	v. C3 Germany
	15	LIVORNO	19.00	D1 Ghana	v. D2 Cuba
	12	CARRARA	21.00	B3 Australia	v. B4 Mexico
	14	MASSA	21.00	C2 U.A.E.	v. C4 Brazil
	16	LIVORNO	21.00	D3 Uruguay	v. D4 Spain

WED 21.8.91	REST DAY
THU 22.8.91	19 CARRARA 17.00 B1 Congo v. B4 Mexico
	21 MASSA 17.00 C1 Sudan v. C4 Brazil
	23 LIVORNO 17.00 D1 Ghana v. D4 Spain
	18 VIAREGGIO 19.00 A2 USA v. A3 China PR
	20 CARRARA 19.00 B2 Qatar v. B3 Australia
	22 MASSA 19.00 C2 U.A.E. v. C3 Germany
	24 LIVORNO 19.00 D2 Cuba v. D3 Uruguay
	17 VIAREGGIO 21.00 A1 Italy v. A4 Argentina

2 ND ROUND	
FRI 23.8.91	REST DAY
SAT 24.8.91	REST DAY
QUARTER FINALS	
SUN 25.8.91	25 MONTecatini 18.00 1 ST A v. 2 ND B
	26 VIAREGGIO 21.00 1 ST B v. 2 ND A
	27 CARRARA 21.00 1 ST C v. 2 ND D
	28 LIVORNO 21.00 1 ST D v. 2 ND C
MON 26.8.91	REST DAY
TUE 27.8.91	REST DAY
SEMI-FINALS	
WED 28.8.91	30 LIVORNO 18.30 w26 v. w28
	29 PISA 21.00 w25 v. w27
THU 29.8.91	REST DAY
3 RD /4 TH PLACE	
FRI 30.8.91	31 MONTecatini 18.30 129 v. 120
FINAL	
SAT 31.8.91	32 FLORENCE 21.00 w29 v. w30



Don Campbell back on the road

FORMER FIFA referee Donald Campbell is happy to be back in the Foundation SA League as coach of struggling Blackwood.

He was named last week to lead the side until the end of the season after the league's bottom side and coach Arthur Ruttle parted company.

"This is a good personal challenge," said Campbell, who resigned as coach of Croatia earlier this season after leading that club to two Caps and second place in the Foundation League.

"The club virtually is resigned to dropping down a division but we hope to pick up some points for the rest of this year."

"I will have a chance to have a close look at the players and see what we can salvage for next year."

"I am taking over to the end of the season at this stage but would be willing to carry on next year if it was offered."

"I would look forward to next season and believe we could attract some quality players as well as boosting the younger ones we have here already."

"The club is confident its financial position has been turned round and it now could be guaranteed excellent sponsorship."

"The Hills is breeding ground for young talent and there are many businesses we could try to get included to help build up the club. It could be an exciting future."

Blackwood chairman Gary Stevens said the committee unanimously had decided to replace Ruttle as coach.

"It was a hard decision as there was no animosity between Arthur and the committee. Things just were not working out as we had hoped."

"We appreciate the work he has done. We offered him a position as a development officer with the club's younger players but he declined."

"The committee thought it was the right time to look to the future. We felt we should take a different line. I spoke at length to Donald Campbell last week and he will meet the executive committee this week."

"He will be appointed to the end of the season. We then will advertise the position but Donald said he probably would be willing to

carry on if he was the successful applicant."

THE proposed joint membership for fans wanting to see SA NSL action this season at Hindmarsh is creating big interest.

West Adelaide PR man Peter Angelos said: "The scheme would be a big plus for clubs with cash flow at the beginning of the season when the money is needed not at the end."

"It seems to have been well received and has created a fair bit of interest."

In the scheme, West and Adelaide City would offer a joint membership pass at reasonable cost to fans for Hindmarsh NSL games.

AURELIO Vidmar would be rated in the \$800,000 class in Italy.

And there is no doubt he will make it in Belgium.

That is the view of the man who should know, Charlie Palumbo — Viddie's mentor, advisor, coach, friend and second 'dad'.

Palumbo has helped shape Viddie's career towards fulfilling a soccer dream.

Socceroo Vidmar currently is trialing in Belgium with a view to signing a contract.

"I have been there to help fix his wounds," Palumbo said. "But I always knew he could make it. I kept on telling him he would play for Australia and overseas."

"He made his steps from Amateur League to State League to the NSL to the national team and now overseas."

"We always have had mutual trust in each other."

Palumbo believes Viddie came good last year when he trained in Italy with Fiorentina and with Grasshoppers in Switzerland.

"He would be rated at \$600,000 in Italy," Palumbo said.

"He was not out of his depth there and in Switzerland. Only when Kubik decided to stay with Fiorentina did they cut him because they had too many foreign players."

"Aurelio used to run out of a bit of steam in the last 15 to 20 minutes but the preparation in Italy helped him a great deal to overcome that."

Palumbo, who identified Viddie's outstanding talents as an 11-year-old, said Adelaide City had treated the player well.



DON CAMPBELL: THE SHEIK OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

"They have looked after him but Aurelio has done it on his own. He has tremendous enthusiasm, discipline and desire to be a player."

"Here's a tip for all young players. You can become a player. But if you want to become a top player you have to devote time to the game yourself away from normal training."

"Aurelio is all heart. Every success he gets, he deserves. He has worked hard for it himself."

Vidmar is working hard again just now with Belgian First Division side Ekeren. Club officials were said to be coming to SA to try to work out a deal.

There could be earnest talking too, within the City club.

Some prominent clubmen are said not to be happy with how the Vidmar move was handled.

Unless satisfying reasons are behind the situation there could be repercussions.

STAND-IN Blackwood skipper Graham Campbell was a stand-out success in his leader's role against Birkkalla.

In doubt before the game with a thigh strain, Campbell, who deputised for suspended Pat Dinan, suffered a head wound early in the game.

He resumed after treatment to that only to cut a knee.

Further treatment and he was back again in the thick of the action.

Meanwhile, soccer station 5RPH made a promising start on Saturday.

WITH only three months until the kick-off of the revamped NSL concern is growing that the good Dr Bradley's formula for revolution might not be such a winner.

Ambitious State League clubs nationwide have been denied incentive through the no promotion proposal.

And that could see the grassroots of the game slip right back to the old ethnic origins officials have tried so hard to erode.

Bradley managed to add sauce to the beefcake of Rugby League but soccer is a different soulvaki.

There is growing evidence that Foundation SA clubs could feel they need not spend money in importing players from other clubs, interstate or overseas if they have no more to play for than a 'shallow' championship honour.

They look sure to prefer to cultivate players from their own ethnic group and community.

These are moves that already are an unwritten policy at some clubs.

That cannot be healthy for the long-term goals of the game.

POLONIA expects big things from mystery import Con Chrisohoidis, who made his debut on Saturday against Azzurri.

The former Polonia player will play out the season after returning from Greek Second Division club Edessakos.

Azzurri was forced into some quicksilver changes in its 2-1 win.

Graham Scott came off after only 14 minutes to be replaced by Mark Abraham.

Abraham impressed with a slick display that included a good header that almost brought a goal.

But when goalkeeper Bruno Silvestri was sent off, Abraham, at the interval found himself as a sub who was substituted.

Goalscorer Fortu Costanzo went into goal briefly before the interval but Edmore Mahleka took over at the break with Abraham missing out.

Mahleka was magic against his old mates.

HELLAS has told Alby Kidd he no longer is required by the club as player of coach in the Foundation SA League.

That, in turn, is likely to initiate reciprocal correspondence from Kidd's lawyers over signed contractual agreements.

The wrangle, which developed when Vic Fernandez was named coach of the club for the National Soccer League from October, now will centre off-field with legal eagles.

Kidd probably never will play with Hellas again.

But the articulate former Scottish professional is soured by what he sees as misinformation given out over the current situation.

"I didn't make training on Wednesday because I was called to a meeting with club officials at Sturt Street (Hel-

lenic House). I went there with my solicitor who can verify that," Kidd said.

"On Friday, I was ready to take training when I was told I was finished at the club as player and coach. I made myself available for selection against Salisbury on Saturday but was told to take the weekend off."

"I tabled a proposal to Hellas on Friday and they were to reply by 4pm that day. They never did so the offer was withdrawn."

"I'll sit out now and see what happens."

Hellas players, grouped around Kidd, were witnesses on Friday when team boss Laki Vagianos told Kidd he was not required.

Vagianos allegedly previously has had heated disagreements with the coach.

SECOND Division club Olympians has protested to the SA Soccer Federation over a 2-2 away draw against Elizabeth.

Olympians, third on the table, three points behind Elizabeth, were leading 2-1 with only minutes remaining.

The away side was awarded a free-kick in its own penalty area for offside against an Elizabeth player.

An Elizabeth player, standing over the ball for the free-kick, reportedly was pushed away by an Olympian opponent.

Though the ball already was dead, the referee awarded a penalty from which Elizabeth netted an equaliser to maintain its two point table lead over Port Adelaide.

"We are protesting to the Federation," Olympians secretary Theo Raptopoulos said.

"The penalty decision was completely wrong. Even some of the Elizabeth people said that. We would wish to get a replay of the game."

FIFA has rejected an appeal from Birkkalla Eagles that its Foundation SA League game against Hellas be replayed.

Birkkalla called for the fixture to be played again after match referee John Seymour-Griffin admitted to a mistake in sending-off a Birkkalla player near the end of the game.

Hellas won 3-2 after earlier leading 3-0.



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Mirko embarks on new career

GREG RUSSELL LOOKS AT THE SUNSHINE STATE

Former young Soccerroo squad member Mirko Runje has been given a new challenge in his career.

The Croydon goalkeeper, who went to the Soviet Union with the 1985 Young Soccerroos, will be trialled by Brisbane United for the first three months on the new NSL season.

Runje, 24, who has not played regularly the past 18 months, has trialled with United for the past week. United coach Miron Bleiberg is well aware of Runje's abilities, as the pair were together at Melbourne Croatia.

Runje is well out of condition but United officials are hoping the incentive of returning to

the NSL will inspire Runje to get back to his old form.

"Ian Dobson (the Croydon coach) has agreed to play him until the end of this season once he has a bit of fitness we will trial Mirko before deciding whether to sign him," said United spokesman Lawrence Oudendyk.

The loan will cost Brisbane United \$4000.

Brisbane United officials have been busily scouting talent after signing Parramatta's Alan Hunter last month.

The club is believed to be negotiating with a Dutch defender and an English striker.

Bleiberg and Oudendyk also staged a lightning scouting mission to Melbourne last week

but were not greeted with the open arms for which they might have hoped.

Brunswick Juventus refused the pair permission to talk to striker Brian MacNicol, a former Rochdale player in Brisbane.

"Juventus officials got a bit upset about us being there," Oudendyk said. "We couldn't talk to Brian, but we have it on good authority he is keen to come back and play for Brisbane."

Brisbane United also are interested in New Zealand striker Billy Wright, who has developed an unpredictable reputation since coming to Australia to play for Blacktown two years ago.

Wright is well known in Brisbane as the player involved in the incident in which Queensland goalkeeper Rob Farrow had his leg broken in Auckland four years ago.

"Billy has assured us he has mended his ways and is keen to play NSL again," Oudendyk said. "he's big and strong and could be the type of steel we need up front."



MIRKO RUNJE IN ACTION

Bitter memories

Memories of a bitter clash in New Zealand four years ago will be revived when Queensland takes on Auckland at Perry Park this weekend.

Maroons keeper Rob Farrow had his leg broken in an inaugural South Pacific Cup in Auckland in 1987.

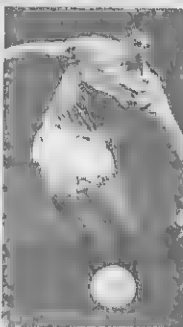
Ironically, Farrow has been recalled to the Queensland squad for the representative commitment this season.

Farrow said last week that there were no grudges but admitted it would be nice to beat the New Zealanders this weekend.

"I have had enough injuries since then to forget about that one," he said. "But Queensland has had some good results this season and it would be good to finish the representative calendar with a win in a match which could be the side's toughest."

The Auckland side named a fortnight ago includes seven current or past New Zealand All Whites.

Queensland coach Juan Cutillas has been unable to recall the interstate Queenslanders he used to strengthen his side that beat New South Wales 2-0 and has pinned his hopes on in-form



LEE HOWELLS

XXXX League stars

They include the Cranney brothers, Sean and Troy, who are the first brothers in a Maroons team since John and Russell Stewart teamed in 1985.

Troy, 19, will be making his Queensland seniors debut while Sean has become a regular this season after scoring in his debut against Victoria in April.

"It's great to be selected to play for Queensland," said Troy, who played last season in the NSL with Sunshine George Cross.

"It came as a bit of a shock. I wasn't happy with my form when I first came back to Brisbane, but it's picked up the last few games.

"I've played with Sean most of the way through juniors, but it will be a bonus if we can get on the park together against Auckland."

North Star defender Mark Greer comes into the squad after battling his way back from a broken leg while Mount Gravatt speedster John Brown is another debutant.

The Auckland squad includes one very familiar name for Brisbane soccer followers.

Grant Lightbown was signed by Lions four years ago after being spotted playing for Auckland against the Maroons. He enjoyed sporadic success with the national league club before disappearing under mysterious circumstances two years ago.

The squads are:

Queensland: Stuart Woodruffe, Robbie Farrow, Frank Mengotti, Andy Stowell, Mark Greer, Stein Grodum, Ibro Cahad, Frank Pimblett, Darren Hillier, Chris Slater, Clayton Koch, Peter Dwyer, Sean Cranney, Ken Swan, Troy Cranney, Lee Howells, John Brown.

Auckland: Jason Batby, Warwick Hamlin, Kabe Lynch, Michael Ridgton, Todger Gray, Steve Cain, Kim Wright, Sean Jorgensen, Mark Elrick, Sean Rowland, Michael Leggo, Neil Woodhams, Steve Nickson, Grant Lightbown, Darren McClellan, Noel Barkley.

Self destruction

Brisbane Croatia appear to have embarked on yet another self destruct course after sensationally sacking coach Peter Bannon last week.

The move was as baffling as it was disgraceful given the newly-promoted Croatia were in a solid fifth position and rated by most as strong favourites to contest the finals.

Bannon's only crime was that he had allowed Croatia to slip from the top of the table with five consecutive losses.

But the Croatia committee, whose hands have been stained many times in the past by the blood of axed coaches, once again failed to look at the overall picture and folded to the irrational pressure of supporters.

In reaching the top of the table, Croatia had tasted more success than most rational thinkers,

and that probably included Bannon, never really expected them to stay at the top. Most considered that the season would be a huge success if Croatia could hang on and contest the finals.

That achievement would have surpassed the usual promotion expectation of consolidation in the first season back in top company.

The Croatia committee also failed to appreciate that in losing to four top teams in the league their remaining matches were against sides lower on the table and games the team had an excellent chance of winning.

More importantly, the committee failed to understand the ability and credibility Bannon had brought to Dunn Road in the 18 months since he took them from the Second Division to the top of the XXXX League.

His sacking was a reaction that had become so

typical of Croatia and one that ultimately will deny the success they so have craved but have no idea on how to achieve.

In replacing Bannon with Zelko Bambic, who coached Croatia (then Sunnyside) with only limited success in 1986, Croatia have only reinforced their image as a volatile ethnic club.

Club secretary Karlo Kouros admitted spectators had called for Bannon's sacking.

"We asked Peter to resign," Kouros said. "After five losses, we received a lot of pressure from our supporters."

That admission in itself was enough to condemn Croatia and dismiss any chance of being a long term soccer power in Queensland as are their counterparts in Sydney and Melbourne.

Bambic almost certainly will benefit from Bannon's groundwork for the remainder of the

season and it was not surprising that Croatia won against neighbours Acacia Ridge, who are languishing at the foot of the table with just three wins all year.

Bannon was stunned by the decision. "Two weeks ago they wanted me to sign for another year," he said. "I am very disappointed."

It was a sad sacking as many had thought things changed at Croatia and Bannon had succeeded where many others had failed or had not been permitted to succeed.

But his axing uncovered yet again the truth about the club. Croatia will never be a force in Queensland soccer because its impatient supporters do not have the responsibility to build for it.

While the club continually looks for the short cut to success, they will always find themselves running into a dead end.

AROUND THE NATION

Brad Maloney out with injury



Young Soccerroo star Brad Maloney

From our man in Canberra Graham Cooke

CANBERRA Metro's Young Soccerroo midfielder Brad Maloney will be missing from the NSW Soccer League side for another week.

Speaking from his parents' home in Sydney, Maloney said a knee injury he sustained in the World Youth Championship third-place play-off a fortnight ago was not as bad as first thought.

"Originally, it was diagnosed as a torn cartilage," he said. "But I saw another doctor and he

believes it is simply that the knee cap is out of alignment.

"I am going to the Cumberland College Health Centre which has developed a program to deal with just this kind of injury and it seems to be working well.

"I am seeing the physio three times a week and every day I am working on the exercises I have been given.

"If all goes well I hope to be back playing for the Metros before too long. I definitely want to see out the season with them."

Maloney said the Canberra team's failure to win promotion to the Quilt National Soccer League had been a major disappointment. "It's a shame — I have enjoyed playing for them and it was in my plans to sign

again during the summer season," he said.

"As it is, I will be looking at other NSL clubs, preferably based in Sydney, as I have no plans to go overseas for a year or two yet."

Certain people would like him to change his mind — among them the agents who flocked around the Young Soccerroos' hotel during the world championship in Portugal.

"There were a lot of rumours," he said. "One was that Anderlecht of Belgium was putting together a deal which would involve myself, Paul Okon and Lorenz Kindtner, but nothing came of it (Okon has since signed for another Belgian team, Club Brugge).

"The whole stay in Portugal was a dream. The locals really took to us — there were autograph hunters besieging our hotel, and after we lost to Portugal in the semi-final we got a standing ovation from the crowd."

FORMER youth international Paul Foster believes Canberra Metro has yet to see the best of him.

The striker from Quilt National League club Sunshine George Cross is a joint leader in the Metro's scoring list with nine goals in league and cup games this season, but says he has done this while struggling back to full fitness.

"I had a nightmare last season with Sunshine, spending most of it on the sidelines with one injury or another," he said.

"I broke my wrist, had a medial ligament problem and a few stitches in my head. The first year I had with them wasn't too bad as I managed to play in 19 of the 26 league games, but the second is best forgotten.

"(Coach) Tom Sermanni knew about my problems when I got here and has been very helpful."

Foster's battle back to fitness has included hours of extra training at the Australian Institute of Sport.

"The plan is to improve my speed with a bit of weight training, then I'm getting in some

shooting and skills practice," he said.

"Even now my left foot isn't working as well as it should, and it will be another month before I'm playing at my peak."

Playing at his peak means scoring more goals than even the healthy ratio he is maintaining — the job which he feels he is best at.

Foster was a goal king when he played in the elite Australian Institute of Sport squad in 1987 but made the mistake of offering to play in the mudfield for South Melbourne in order to break into the NSL the following season.

"The trouble was that everyone began to think of me as a midfielder when it was never my best position," he said. "Even so, I still got drafted into the Melbourne training squad for the senior Australian team."

"But now I'm back up front I feel happier. I know the targets can't be too high because of my past fitness level, but I still want to net more frequently than I do now."

In fact Foster is the kind of unorthodox front man who can bamboozle the most sophisticated defence. Rarely does he



TOM SERMANNI

do the expected when receiving the ball in front of goal, often being prepared to lay it back to an incoming midfielder in order to catch the opposition off-balance.

"I don't see my role as that unusual, but I am definitely not the standard British type of centre-forward," he said. "And certainly, if it's not on for me I would rather set up someone else than try to score a miracle goal."

"In that respect, I have been helped by the players around me in the Metro's team. Some of the younger ones are very talented — people like Andrew Ravanello and Michael Musitano stick out."

"Looking back, it was

a good move to come here for the winter — now that the NSL is

in the summer, anyone who doesn't take the opportunity of playing in the state competitions is silly.

"You've only got so many years in you and I want to play for as much of them as possible. In addition to that it means that players like myself can now make a decent living, although in order to put money aside for your retirement, you need a higher profile."

The news two months ago that the Metros would not be playing in the NSL this summer has helped to make up Foster's mind about his future. "I'm heading off overseas," he said.

"At this stage I've got some trials set up in Hong Kong, and I'm also looking at Europe, where my younger brother, Craig, has played."

"After all, I went to the AIS, and the course there is the best preparation you can have for professional football."

"It's pretty cut-throat overseas but I have spent my life so far preparing for it. Football is what I'm best at, and I want to give it a go."

ACT BRIEFS

ONE club which has quietly got on with the job of playing football over the past few seasons now looks on the verge of a breakthrough to the big time.

Shadows is handily placed in the middle of the ACT League's Second-Division table, the highest place it has occupied in its seven-year history.

The name originates from its first sponsor, the Electric Shadows cinema group, which backed it in the early years after it had been formed by some breakaway players from Downer Olympic.

Coach Rod Lynes recalls that Shadows began life in the Canberra Social League, switching to the ACT League's Sixth Division, before rising through the ranks which culminated in last season's Third-Division championship.

No single individual has done more to secure the future of Shadows than Tony Mills, one of its founders and a constant worker. He produces an excellent match-day program and also edits a yearbook.

Shadows contains a number of players who have tasted life at the top of ACT soccer, among

them former ANU and ACT representative Neil Sanderson, so does the club have any further ambitions?

"Our current league position indicates we should concentrate on consolidation for the moment," Lynes says.

"After that, we'll just take it as it comes."

Just about the only crumb of comfort for Canberra Metro coach Ivan Gruicic resulting from the NSW League fixture with Sydney Macedonia was the form of Takis Arvanitis in the Youth Division fixture.

Arvanitis scored twice in the 3-3 draw, his second goal requiring split-second timing to beat the offside trap. It was easily his best performance of the season, and one that will bring him that much closer to a First-Division debut.

Statistics show that in the First Division in 1990 Macedonia has not been beaten in a game in which it has led, and never won a game in which it has trailed. The stage in Sunday's youth division game when it led 3-2 was the first time the club had headed Canberra in any grade.

A new name on the score sheet of ACT First-Division Belconnen United Nick Behr, recently promoted from the reserves, who grabbed the first goal in his team's 2-1

win over Weston Creek.

Canberra Croatia coach Ian Gibson, highly critical of his team's lack of fighting spirit in the 3-2 loss to University of Canberra, wishes more team members would follow the example of former NSW League squad member Zoran Glavinic.

"He's one player who never gives up whatever the state of the game," Gibson said.

Former Inter Monaro and Canberra Metro star Billy Willox was quick to make an impression for his latest club, University of Canberra.

On loan from Tuggeranong United, Willox was one of the scorers in a win over Croatia that could prove crucial in the race to avoid relegation.

University's horror run of injuries continues: first team full-back An-

drew Mason dislocated his shoulder in the Croatia game; in addition, defender Michael Jarman suffered a bad fracture of the leg in the reserve grade fixture and will see no more action this season.

To make matters worse this was the weekend when club trainer Barry Rumble was unavailable.

Tuggeranong United, flushed with success from its school holiday junior coaching clinic which netted the club a tidy sum is examining its future in relation to the Tuggeranong Valley.

Some officials fear the club, heavily based in the two oldest suburbs of Kambah and Wamassa, is not well equipped to take advantage of the rapid expansion further south.

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AROUND THE NATION

A dream about to come true

BY FRANK SCICLUNA

Australia's Youth Soccer captain Paul Okon jets off to Belgium this week to launch his lifelong dream of a full-time professional career with leading club FC Brugge.

The 19 year old former Marconi Fairfield junior has been transferred into the European big time. \$300,000 is the largest fee ever paid to an Australian football club of any code.

What's more, this classy youngster has set himself a target of cementing a regular first team spot with the former Belgian champions by the turn of the year. "I have always pushed myself to attain high goals," he confidently stated before his departure, "and my aim is to play in the clubs first eleven midway through my first season".

Okon has every reason to feel confident. He burst on the Australian soccer scene as a mere 17 year old and has since been voted the NSL's Under 21 player of the year for two successive seasons.

And only last month during the World Youth Championships in Portugal, he earned rave reviews from hardened football critics for his part in Australia's history-making performance which took them to the semi-finals.

Okon's one regret is that he won't be available to continue developing his international career with the Socceroos for a while. Already an established member of the Olympic Games side he will miss the away legs of the Oceania qualifiers later



Paul Okon in action for Marconi in the NSL

this year, "I'll just be starting to settle in at Brugge at that time and the club has already made it clear that any disruptions will be out of the question," he said with a slight hint of disappointment, "but should the boys get to Barcelona, I'll be given permission to join them".

As a kid who has made his way through the ranks of our vast junior set-up, Okon has some valuable advice to pass on to any youngster who wishes to emulate his success.

"Always make sure that you play with teams where good coaching is available," he insists, "and that does not necessarily mean big clubs. Some kids simply tend to go where their mates are playing, irrespective of what type of coaches they have. That can destroy a promising

career". "You also have to set yourself a firm goal — then do whatever needs to be done in order to achieve it. There's no other way".

Not bad advice from a young man who started out as a four year old at Fairfield Heights and who now has the soccer world literally at his feet.

Best of luck Paul: soccer followers in this country, including the many thousands of kids who have been inspired by your achievements, will no doubt be keeping a close eye on your progress.

That's not to say that this modest youngster fails to appreciate the task facing him in Belgium. "Of course, the transition to the European big time won't be easy," he admitted. "For a start I will most certainly miss my fami-

ly and friends in Australia. I can imagine that going home to an empty house after training will be a totally new experience for me, which I probably won't like. But that's something which I will overcome after the first few months.

"Anyway, I'm sure that I won't be short of visitors from home. Mum and dad are already planning to come over for Christmas".

National youth teammate Lorenz Kindtner has also been snapped up by Brugge and his presence can only help Okon in his first few difficult weeks.

The transfer of Okon to the club which gave former Marconi striker Frank Farina his first break in Europe has been in the pipeline since the end of 1990. Farina's European agent was an interested spectator at Bossley

Park when Marconi defeated Wollongong Macedonia two days before Christmas and immediately started negotiating for the Fairfield defender after that game.

"Fred de Jong's Dutch club Fortuna Sittard has also expressed some interest since then," Okon said, "but Brugge made the first approach and I was always likely to end up going there".

The clincher came when Okon played for the Australian Youth team in a warm-up game against Brugge before the recent world championships. "I had a good look around the whole set-up and was greatly impressed. I had dinner with Farina afterwards and he spoke very highly of the family atmosphere which exists there. From that moment on I knew this was the club for me".

Youth Socceroo team mates Robert Stojewski, Robert Spasevski, Kevin Muscat, Mark Silic, Kris Trajanovski and Kevin Muscat, as well as senior and under-23 representatives Mike Petersen, Mehmet Durakovic, George Slifkas and John Markovski, all joined in the action.

The next Diabetes Australia Super Soccer Clinics will be held in Geelong during the October school holidays.

Tasmania given a big yardstick

BY WALTER PLESS

LAST week's two soccer matches against the visiting Australian Under-17 national team will have provided Tasmanian players with a valuable yardstick with which to measure their own ability in comparison to the best youth players in the country.

That is the opinion of Mike Wells, the national director of coaching, who was in Tasmania in conjunction with the tour by the Jozeys.

"Tasmanian players will know how much extra they've got to work," Wells said.

"In the match played in Glenorchy, the Tasmanians more than held their own for the first 20 minutes and possibly looked as sharp as the Jozeys.

"But, they couldn't sustain it and just perhaps, it could be old coaching methods that people have been applying that could be at fault.

"For example, you might have an ex-player who is now coaching some of these boys at club level and he'd be applying the same coaching techniques that he was taught when he was a player.

"Certainly, if he hasn't been on a course, he'd be using the old hand-me-down methods and, therefore, the players weren't able to sustain that speed for a long period of time."

Wells said that what was needed was a lot of high intensity, short, sharp work that was now the trend in leading soccer nations such as Brazil and England.

"Everything is done over short distances with high intensity and players are now very quick," Wells said.

"Gary Lineker is a prime example. He is in Australia with England last month and despite him being 30 years of age, he was quicker than anyone else over that first one, two and three metres.

"This is where Australia has been lacking, and it's where Tasmanian players are lacking."

Wells, who replaced Eric Worthington last year as the national director of coaching, was on his first visit to Tasmania.

He had discussions with Tasmanian coaching director, Les Bee, and with Mr Roy Stone-man, the president of the Tasmanian Soccer Federation and a member of the Australian Soccer Federation's development committee.

Mr John Dimtsis, the vice-chairman of the ASF, and Dr Graham Bradley, the author of the recently released Bradley Report about the future of Australian soccer — both men are ASF commissioners — were also in Hobart last week and a meeting was held with the TSF to discuss developments on the national and local scenes.

Representatives from the referees' federation, the women's federation and junior bodies were also present at the meeting.

Wells said the entire national coaching scheme was under review and the system that had worked so well over the past 15 or 16 years now needed to be changed and updated in the light of the latest research.

The various State coaching directors had met and come up with a new plan and a new policy and these would now go before the Australian Coaching Council.

"The Australian Sports Commission, of which the ACC is an arm, puts big money into soccer at the moment and we have to respect their wishes," Wells said.

"Our proposed program is now before the technical committee and, if it is accepted, it will be implemented and I then hope to write up a syllabus that will be a core syllabus for the whole of Australia because if we've lacked something, it's been uniformity from State to State.

"The program has to be an all-embracing one and that's what we're working on at the ASF, namely a five-year plan, involving the coaching of coaches and talent identification, and it will stand us in good stead for the next 10 years."

VIC CLINICS A REAL SUCCESS STORY

BY GREG BLAKE

THE Victorian Soccer Federation reports that the second of three Diabetes Australia Super Soccer Clinics, run last week at Olympic Park in Melbourne, was a grand success.

Run as a forerunner to Diabetes Week, which commenced last Sunday, the Melbourne

clinics exceeded all expectations, with nearly 300 youngsters turning out on opening day (Monday) to receive expert training from local NSL and Socceroo stars.

According to State Director of Coaching, Tim White, the remarkable turnout meant that both the main ground at Olympic Park, as well as the number two ground, had to be utilised to accommodate all the budding champions.

The clinic, run over three days by White and VSF Sports Development Officer Jeff Oliver, eventually catered for nearly double the amount of children as it had expected to.

The turnout, according to VSF spokesman Terry Jones, gives some indication of the strength of youth soccer in Victoria.

More than 13,000 juniors are registered with club sides in the Melbourne metropoli-

tan area, an increase of some 10 percent on 1990 figures.

"That figure only includes juniors registered at clubs and does not include those that play in school competitions", said Jones.

"Not only are there more teams this season, but there are also more clubs registered".

New Brugge signing Lorenz Kindtner was just one of the game's stars to attend the clinics.

JUNIOR JOTTINGS

It's all systems go in the cup

COMMONWEALTH BANK CUP

OF all the Commonwealth Bank Cup Regional finals one of the most eagerly awaited was the Blakehurst and Dulwich clash.

Two sides full of Regional representative players and with Blakehurst having Australian Under 17 Squad members Dominic Usalj and Paul Dee and Dulwich Australian Schools player Peter Tsekens.

The first stanza saw Dulwich totally dominant with Peter Tsekens running riot in midfield and John Christou up front causing all sorts of problems for the Blakehurst defence.

It was no surprise when Dulwich took the lead through Cristou and the miracle was, that with the number of shots from inside the box going narrowly over or just wide, that only one goal was conceded in the first half.

The second half saw a much more determined Blakehurst, Dulwich were pressed back into their half by resolute Blakehurst defence and Blakehurst also began to cause problems by moving the ball around.

Christian Taylor was doing a good marking job on Christou and Paul Andrakopoulos was trying to keep Tsekens under control.

Scores were levelled after 10 minutes when, after a scramble in the box, Mitre Talcovski poked the ball home.

Dulwich were still dangerous with Tsekens outstanding but it was Blakehurst who scored when Talcovski raided down the left and resultant cross found Dominic Usalj, who hammered the ball home.

Again Dulwich pressed forward but yet again it was Blakehurst who scored when Peter Mitrevski attacking down the right, sent in a cross which the Dulwich defenders couldn't clear and Dominic Usalj put the issue beyond doubt.

Best players on the day were Dulwich's Peter Tsekens (the game's best player) and Peter Mitrevski for Blakehurst.

Another eagerly awaited final was Fairfield and Westfields in

Metropolitan South West, with both schools turning in some excellent performances on the way to the final.

The match opened in controversial fashion after Fairfield converted an early penalty but were ordered to retake it as players were encroaching in the area.

This time the shot went wide. After this lucky let off, Westfields opened the scoring midway through the half when Enzo Zinghini scored after a goal-mouth scramble.

Shortly after half-time Fairfield received another penalty after the Westfields keeper fouled an attacker. A magnificent save turned to further jubilation when Dragan Radovac rounded off a sweeping Westfields move with a second goal.

Twelve minutes from the end came the turning point when Westfields had a player sent off.

Shortly after the off-side trap was beaten and Fairfield's Andres Monge reduced the margin to 1-2. A man short Westfields defended desperately till in the last minute of injury time yet another penalty was awarded and Rodrigo Pena converted with the last kick of the match, into extra time and it was Fairfield who went ahead for the first time through Jimmy Levantis.

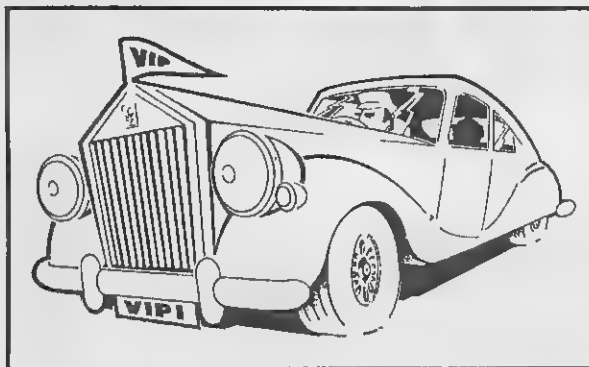
Just before the end of the second period of extra time with excitement at level pitch it was Dragon Radovac who equalised for Westfields to send the match into a penalty kick decider. After a nailbiting shoot out it was Fairfield who prevailed.

It had been a wonderful exciting game with some fantastic football.

Both winning teams are now through to the last sixteen in the State. Blakehurst face Newcastle's West Wallsend, with their Australian Schools player Troy Halpin and three other Regional players and Fairfield are opposed to last year's semi finalist Umina from the Central Coast, with Blacktown City striker Matthew Heighway and Youth League player Darren Elkon.

Wave after wave of

COMMONWEALTH BANK BILL TURNER CUP



GLORIOUS weather greeted a large noisy crowd present at Francis Park for the Area finals of the Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Cup.

Merrylands made all the early running in their match against Homebush with Nick Agius and Mark O'Neill dominating midfield and Georges Karam and Steven Vrtkovski causing plenty of headaches to the Homebush defence with their running up front.

Merrylands hit the bar once and brought out a string of goodsaves from Homebush keeper Peter Kambouris but try as they might they just couldn't score.

In the second half it was the same old story, constant Merrylands pressure, punctuated by the odd Homebush counterattack but at fulltime the game remained scoreless.

In extra time with a penalty shootout seeming certain/Homebush striker Raggar Jakolovic for once found himself free in the box and slotted the ball away for the winner.

In the second game Holy Cross made all the early running with their forwards much faster than their Davidson opposition.

Zan Kukucka particularly was causing plenty of problems with his speed and skills. One early shot from an acute angle hit the post and was then saved.

Wave after wave of

maroon and white attackers streamed down on the Davidson goal and it was from one such attack that Holy Cross went ahead.

Zan received the ball on the right, almost on the byline and his left foot drive found the back of the net.

Five minutes later Zan received the ball again, this time on the left. Looking up he could see the keeper off his line and cleared him with a well placed lob, which a defender racing back could only help into the net.

Davidson didn't gave up and on one of their few attacking raids the ball found Brad Collins, who also lobbed the keeper to narrow the halftime score to 2-1.

In the second half two magical moments from Zan within a minute of each other sealed a comprehensive Holy Cross victory.

First a ball was played through to him. Four defenders were left in his wake as he placed the ball in the far corner of the net. No sooner had the spectators resumed their seats than Zan received the ball on the right touch line.

He cut inside on a diagonal run beating two and then from the edge of the circle, curled the ball into the top of the net to send the Holy Cross supporters delirious with joy.

The night's final match was the long awaited clash between Westfields and Ambarvale. Early on, with the Westfields players

stagestruck, it was Ambarvale that made the initial running with Ray Cotti particularly outstanding.

Desperate Westfields defence, compiled with some excellent saves from keeper Zlatko Josevski, kept them in the game till half-time, whilst the Ambarvale defence led by Michael Oraz comfortably dealt with the odd Westfields counter attack.

As the second half progressed Westfields gained in confidence and came more into the match with Dennis Tot and Dalibar Strbac controlling midfield and Pat Barilla and Sean Babic now causing problems up front.

Up front for Ambarvale, Ray Cotti struggled on alone, surrounded by the complete opposing defence but now it was nearly all Westfields.

One run from Babic was just contained but it was only a matter of time. From a corner on the left the ball found Pat Barilla and his header gave the keeper no chance.

All Ambarvale could now do was to restrict the winning margin and Oraz and his fellow defenders tackled themselves to a standstill to do so. At last, after so many years of getting so close, Westfields have at last won their area.

In the prequarter finals in a fortnight, Homebush are opposed to Holy Cross, Westfields take on Hurstville and St Dominics play Newcastle's Cardiff in another triple header at Francis Park.

DEVELOPMENT DICTATIONS

ONE of the most important but perhaps forgotten features of the restructuring of the Quit National Soccer League is the appointment of Development Officers to each club.

The response to this program by the clubs has been excellent and the quality of the people appointed to these positions not only gives credibility to the job, but guarantees that the program will be managed by enthusiastic and talented people.

The clubs have nominated the following people as their Development Officers: APIA Brian Ellem, Olympic Gary Phillips, Sydney Croatia Tony Krslovic, Melita Andrew Callinan, Marconi Berti Mariani, West Adelaide John Kouranos, Brisbane Utd Alan Hunter, Heidelberg Gary Cole, South Melbourne Sam Meyer, Preston Oscar Crino, Melbourne Croatia Billy Votjek, Newcastle Bruce Stowell, Adelaide City Aurelio Vidmar, Wollongong City Chris James.

To assist this program the ASF is running a seminar at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra to train these officers, show them the programs and resources available and let them benefit from the experience of experienced Development Officers such as Robert Wheatley, Jeff Olver and Carlos Buzzetti.

tley, Jeff Olver and Carlos Buzzetti.

The seminar will include: 1. National Programs, eg; Rooball, CAPS, Aussie Sports. 2. School Protocols, eg; How to run a school session. 3. Local community liaison, eg; Working with local press and shopping centres. 4. ASF Marketing, eg; How to sell the game. 5. In servicing of teachers. 6. State Workshops, eg; How to work together in a city. 7. National Coaching Scheme.

The seminar will be staffed by Steve Darby, Robert Wheatley, Jeff Olver, Tim White and Carlos Buzzetti, with guest lectures from the ASF — Alan Vessey, John Tully, Peter Russell and Mike Wells.

The major aim of the program is that all the Development Officers firstly promote the game of soccer in general, secondly work in conjunction with the established and successful state programs and thirdly promote their clubs and awareness of their clubs.

The job is large but of tremendous importance and it is essential that the job is co-ordinated so that all the officers work in a co-ordinated manner towards the same goals.

Soccer is fortunate in that we have very talented and experienced State Development Officers in Wheatley, Olver and Buzzetti who have paved the way for the QNSL Clubs



APIA's Brian Ellem in action

All the Copa America action



There was plenty of drama in the final three days of the preliminary Copa America group matches, which resulted in Uruguay missing out on a final round robin spot on goal average, as Brazil just sneaked in.

Argentina went through their group undefeated, but Chile only qualified after winning its final group game. The details of the last preliminary days:

DAY 8

Brazil were surprisingly beaten 2-0 by Colombia in Group B at Vina del Mar.

The Colombians well-drilled by Carlos Valderrama thoroughly deserved their upset win.

Anthony de Avila started the rot in the 35th minute when he scored from close range after good work by Valderrama and Andres Escobar.

And his partner up front, Arnoldo Iguaran, put it beyond doubt in the 68th minute with Colombia's second.

The result was the more surprising as Colombia had struggled in their first two matches, narrowly beating Ecuador 1-0 and being held 0-0 by Bolivia.

Already eliminated Ecuador trounced Bolivia 4-0 with two goals from Raul Aviles and one a piece from young midfielder star Alex Aguinaga and Ramirez (penalty).

DAY 9

Argentina and Chile filled half of the final round of the Copa America, the World Cup runners up beating Peru 3-2 for its fourth straight win and host Chile routing Paraguay 4-0.

Advancing to the second round was a major goal for Chile, which already has been banned from the 1994 World Cup because its goalkeeper, Roberto Rojas, faked an injury during the World Cup qualifying game in 1989.

Argentina finished with a 4-0-0 record and as the

NewsFlash

Argentina
Champions

In the last two matches of the competition Argentina downed Colombia 2-1 and Brazil beat Chile 2-0.

This left Argentina as Copa America champions.

Argentina finished with 5 points, Brazil 4, Chile 2 and Colombia 1.

A full report on the last phase and the series in next week's ASW.

winner of Group A in the 10 nation South American championship.

Chile's victory gave it a 3-0-1 record, putting it ahead of Paraguay (2-0-2), Peru (1-0-3), and Venezuela (0-0-4).

Host nation Chile got three of its goals from European based players. Hugo Rubio, who plays for Saint Gallen of Switzerland, scored first in the 12th minute and Ivan Zamorano, who stars for Spanish first division club Seville, added one three minutes later.

Fabian Estay continued the scoring in the second half, adding a goal in the 62nd minute and midfielder Jaime Vera, who plays for Greek club OFI, netted the fourth nine minutes later.

The Chileans, needing to win to advance to the finals, went on the offensive from the start. But Paraguay, which would have qualified with a draw, reinforced its defence and midfield, leaving only Gabriel Gonzalez up front.

In the first game, Diego Latorre, who recently joined Fiorentina of Italy, scored three minutes after kickoff to give Argentina a 1-0 lead, but Alfonso Yanez equalised through a penalty in the 35th minute.

Nestor Cravio, whose hand ball resulted in Yanez's penalty kick, atoned for the error with a headed goal in the 51st minute. Five minutes later, Claudio Garcia scored the eventual game-winner off a pass from Latorre.

DAY 10

Defending champion Brazil, saved by a last minute goal, knocked out Ecuador 3-1 and scraped through to the finals on

goal difference from Group B at Vina del Mar. Brazil, in one of their poorest performances in years, needed a two goal advantage to pass Uruguay and advance to the finals with Group B leader Colombia.

Mazinho II converted in the eighth minute from a pass by Mauro Silva to give Brazil an early lead. But Munoz equalised four minutes later heading in a rebound off the crossbar of a header by Ron from a corner, and the match became a dramatic succession of fast counter-attacks that could have given either side victory.

A free kick by Brazil captain Neto hit the left post in the 15th minute, followed by a lone 80 metre breakaway by Ecuadorian attacking midfielder Alex Aguinaga who missed the goal. Mazinho II hit the crossbar in the 40th with a short drive.

Brazilian coach Falcao, under heavy criticism for his squad's poor record that included the defeat to Colombia, shook up his team for the crucial match, fielding Marcio Santos to replace Gottardo in defence. He also left Renato, Careca and Rai on the substitutes bench, and put on uncapped Bragan-tino striker Silvio and fellow forward Mazinho II.

Marcio Santos headed in a corner in the 54th to rekindle Brazil's chances. But then Mazinho II was sent off for hitting an Ecuadorian defender, and Brazil faced the last 14 minutes with only 10 men, losing coordination to the point of quarrels between their own players.

Falcao substituted Careca for Silvio, who hardly

touched the ball during the game, and Luiz Henrique for captain Neto. One minute from the end, Luiz Henrique broke away alone from the half way line and slammed home Brazil's third, securing their place in the six-match round-robin final phase.

Uruguay beat Colombia 1-0 but fell short of their target by one goal as the Colombians advanced to the finals on goal average.

The Uruguayans needed a 2-0 victory to qualify for the finals.

A long pass sent striker Peter Mendez clear into the goal area to score in the 19th minute and gave Uruguay an early lead.

Uruguayan midfielder Alvaro Gutierrez was sent off in the 40th minute for a late tackle on Iguaran and Uruguay valiantly held onto its slender lead with only ten men.

Colombia only created a couple of chances as Uruguay dominated for the whole encounter.

FINAL PHASE
ROUND 1

WORLD Cup runners-up Argentina defeated Brazil 3-2 in a quelling final-round match Thursday in Santiago.

Despite the expulsion of star forward Claudio Caniggia, Argentina held on to their lead in a bruising encounter that saw four players sent off.

Argentina opened the score in the first minute of play with a header by Dario Franco from a corner.

Five minutes later Brazil left-winger Branco slammed in a 30-metre free kick to equalise and the match became a rough battle with heavy midfield marking.

Two Brazilian defenders constantly neutralised swift Caniggia, who scored the decisive goal that knocked out

Brazil in the World Cup quarter-finals in Italy last year.

A late tackle by Mazinho, to which Caniggia responded with an elbow blow, had both men sent off in the 31st.

But Argentina, powered by Leonardo Rodriguez in midfield, kept up the pressure on Brazil's goal area.

Rodriguez broke away up the left-wing in the 40th and Franco headed a cross in the right post beating World Cup goalkeeper Taffarel and putting Argentina back in the lead.

In the first minute of the second half, Rodriguez sped up the right-wing and shot a high centre for Batistuta to head into the net for Argentina's third.

Brazil, under heavy criticism at home for their poor performance in the tournament, including a 2-0 defeat by Colombia, lacked coordination and failed to press the attack.

Coach Falcao, whose job is on the line, substituted Renato for ineffectual forward Silva to strengthen Brazil's offensive.

A move up the right-wing by Branco, passed on by Renato, allowed Joao Paulo to shoot through Argentina captain Ruggeri's legs to score Brazil's second in the 52nd.

The game turned increasingly vicious with both sides losing another player as the teams finished with only nine on each side.

Ivan Zamorano sank a goal 29 minutes into the second half to give Chile a 1-1 draw with Colombia last Thursday.

Arnoldo Iguaran headed in Colombia's goal after 37 minutes from a pass from Leonel Alvarez, who plays for Valladolid of the Spanish league.

Zamorano's goal was his fifth of the South American championship, making him the top scorer along with Gabriel Batistuta of Argentina at this stage.

Colombian goalkeeper Rene Higuita blocked a penalty shot by Zamorano in the first half after Diego Osorio pulled down Chilean striker Patricio Yanez inside the box.



FC Sao Paulo striker Rai: not a great success in the Copa America for Brazil.

Colombia displayed a strong midfield, led by Carlos Valderrama, who also plays for Valladolid of Spain, and Alvarez.

The attendance at the double-header in Santiago was a capacity 65,000 spectators.

Brazil is to lodge an official protest about the performance of Paraguayan referee Carlos Maciel, who sent off five players during the match against Argentina.

Brazilian official Jorge Salgado says his team tried to play football but the Argentines were in the game to kick. The five players sent off were Maciel, Mazinho and Careca of Brazil and Caniggia and Enrique of Argentina.

FINAL PHASE
ROUND 2

DEFENDING champion Brazil scored once in each half, beating Colombia 2-0 in the rain to stay alive in the Copa America.

Renato scored with a header in the 29th minute, and Branco, who plays for Genoa of Italy, made it 2-0 after Colombia's Eduardo Pimentelli pulled Joao Paulo inside the box.

Earlier, Argentina and Chile played to a scoreless draw.

This left Argentina as the favourites to win the championship.

Argentina was missing the suspended Claudio Caniggia.

The Brazilians, who needed to win to remain in the title hunt, launched an all-out offensive from the beginning.

Brazil succeeded in controlling the midfield and curbing Colombian playmaker Carlos Valderrama.

Anthony de Avila was Colombia's most dangerous attacker, and forced Brazilian goalkeeper Taffarel, who plays for Parma of the Italian league, to make several difficult saves.

Colombia missed several scoring opportunities in the second half, while Brazil played conservatively.

Several areas of the field were flooded by rain.

Chile played a man short for the final 45 minutes against Argentina after winger Patricio Yanez was expelled for hitting defender Fabian Basualdo.

Unable to display their fast-passing attack, the Argentines repeatedly tried to score on long-distance shots.

Gabriel Batistuta and Leonardo Rodriguez forced Chilean goalkeeper Patricio Toledo to make several difficult saves.

Chile missed a chance to score midway through the first half when a 30-metre shot by Fabian Estay hit the post.

Although one man down, Chilean kept the pressure through most of the second half, and Argentine goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea made one of the tournament's most brilliant saves on a shot by Lizardo Garrido with nine minutes left.

Magician Bora at work again

FROM OUR MAN
IN NEW YORK
MICHELANGELO
RUCCI

YOU could hear the sigh of relief all the way from FIFA's headquarters in Zurich.

The US, host of the 1994 World Cup, had just won a "major" championship — the 1991 Gold Cup, the tournament put on by the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football.

The US had beaten Honduras 4-3 on penalties in the final. It could now claim to be the best team North of the border.

"One thing we did was make FIFA happy," said US goalkeeper Tony Meola, the hero of the night and the most valuable player of the Gold Cup, played out in California.

"We do have to be seeded (at the World Cup) in 1994 and by winning CONCACAF, FIFA can justify that we must be seeded. We haven't had this much success in a while and you have to attribute it to Bora and the work we've put in."

Right on both counts, Mr Meola.

The US has not had this much success since someone decided to start keeping records in American soccer in 1885. Never has the US won five consecutive internationals — just what it did to win the Gold Cup.

And Bora Milutinovic is indeed the miracle man who deserves the credit for the sudden transformation in the US national soccer team.

Milutinovic, a Yugoslav who worked magic with Mexico and Costa Rica at the 1986 and 1990 World Cups, replaced 1990 World Cup coach Bob Gansler on March 27. Since then, the US has lost only once — to Argentina on May 19, 1-0.

Okay, the US did not beat Germany or Italy or Brazil or England to claim this title. But it did beat the five opponents out before it — including Mexico — and no more could have been asked of it to become champions of North America.

The 90 minutes of regulation time and 30 minutes of extra time in the final were the tedi-

ous soccer everyone has now come to expect in big-time matches. The Hondurans didn't help the spectacle by staying back and taking just two shots on goal.

So after 120 minutes of horrid 0-0 soccer, it was to the spot — and here Milutinovic proved how valuable he is as a coach.

While Honduran coach Flavio Ortega did little to guide his players through the most demanding aspect of the final, Milutinovic was standing among his men quietly talking to each player as he headed to the spot and hugging him on the return.

The first six penalties sailed past the goalkeepers.

US defender Fernando Clavijo scored his and then Honduran midfielder Juan Carlos Espinoza put his kick well over the crossbar. US 4, Honduras 3.

The US had been crowned champions before 39,973 in the Los Angeles Coliseum.

Explaining his presence among his players during the penalty kicks, Milutinovic said:

"It is very easy to lose the penalty. You really do not practice kicks. It's an attitude. Also, very emotional. You control your emotions, you win. I have to put my players at ease."

Now Milutinovic has to calm down a soccer community that thinks it is about to conquer the world in 1994.

"You don't measure soccer in one week," Milutinovic said to restrain the emotions of his players.

"I'm very happy with our team's play," Milutinovic later told the media. "After all of this, I'm sure we will have a better team."

"I'm truly surprised with the quality of my players. What they did in the games since I've been their coach is not normal. Only great athletes could have done it."

In the 10 matches since Milutinovic took charge, the US has won six, drawn three and lost one. The opposition has been Uruguay, Argentina, Ireland, Juventus, AC Milan, Mexico, Honduras, Trinidad and Tobago, Guatemala and Costa Rica.

While Milutinovic is praising his players for

this remarkable turnaround in a side that could not beat Bermuda three months ago, the American players are leaving no doubt why they are now successful.

"It's unbelievable what Bora has done," says captain Peter Vermes.

"We have progressed so far in such a short period of time because of Bora."

"He defines each player's role and what he wants them to do on the field and in their position. He gives you an open end of flexibility as long as you are benefiting the team aspect, not the individual."

"That's what's good about him and different from before. He gets the best of each player, but it's for the whole team."

Milutinovic has now established a winning base, but he is already searching the States for another 50 or 60 players. He has no National League from which to scout his players, so he must produce his own supply — hence the ultra-large squad.

In the meantime, his men will have a three-week break before returning to their 12-game world series competition. The next opponent is English League Cup Champion Sheffield Wednesday in Philadelphia on August 2.

Mexico, which lost 2-0 in the semi-finals to the US, placed third in the Concacaf Cup.

Peter Vermes has been an integral part of the national team for several years.



When's a ball not a ball?

IT started as a battle for the US Youth Soccer Association's Under-12 National Championship.

It was to take 90 minutes to settle the issue with a soccer ball.

Now the issue is the soccer ball and after more than a week the controversy remains unresolved.

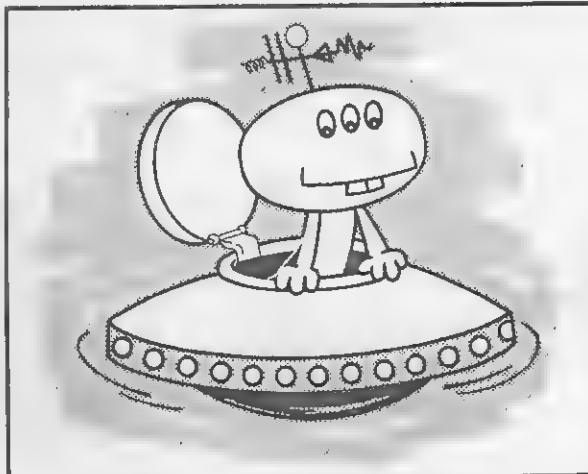
The final, at the Amherst pitch in Massachusetts, was to be a conflict between the Newkirk Wildcats and the Bethesda Dragons.

After eight minutes of the second half, with the Wildcats leading 1-0, the Dragons complained that the ball being used did not meet USYSA regulations.

Under-12s are to play with a no. 4 ball. A no. 5 ball was out on the pitch.

Tournament officials ordered a new ball. The Wildcats went on to win 3-1.

Dragons coach Neil



Marquardt filed a protest.

After an hour, the protest committee agreed with his complaint about the ball and ordered a replay to begin immediately.

The Dragons won the replay 2-1.

Now Wildcats coach Jim Natalie, a lawyer, had lodged a protest that will go all the way to court.

"If, after we switched balls and they beat us 2-1, then I would say, 'fine, they beat us,'" Natalie said. "But they

didn't. We still beat them 2-1 (ignore the first goal) after the other ball was put into play."

Natalie said the tournament officials had handed out no. 5 balls to all 16 teams in the championships. Other coaches and officials

confirm this, but Marquardt said: "There is no doubt in my mind that we used only no. 4 balls."

Natalie says Marquardt "misrepresented" the Dragons when he told the protest committee his team had never used a no. 5 ball.

Tournament director Adele Dolansky has been scared by the pending court action.

"I will not say anything about it and neither will anyone else on the committee," Dolansky said. "But the Under-12s are supposed to use a number four ball and then when you are Under-13, you use a number five."

David Thompson, President of the Maryland Youth Soccer Association which was represented by the Wildcats in the tournament, said he was disappointed with the feud.

"Unfortunately," he said, "I am confident that this will go on to the highest levels."



JUERGEN KLINSMANN — has officially announced 1994 will be his last World Cup.

BERTI'S SHIRTY ON PLAYERS' EXODUS

GERMAN coach Berti Vogts, worried a growing flood of his top stars to the rich Italian league will hinder the national team, has criticised young players for being lured abroad by big money too early in their careers.

Former East German Thomas Doll and defenders Juergen Kohler and Stefan Reuter have just boosted the number of German squad players earning their living in Italy to nine next season.

Vogts, whose side have a tough battle on their hands to qualify for next year's European championship, said the ever-increasing exodus would make life more difficult for the World Cup winners.

"There is no doubt that preparing for internationals is going to become a great deal harder," Vogts said.

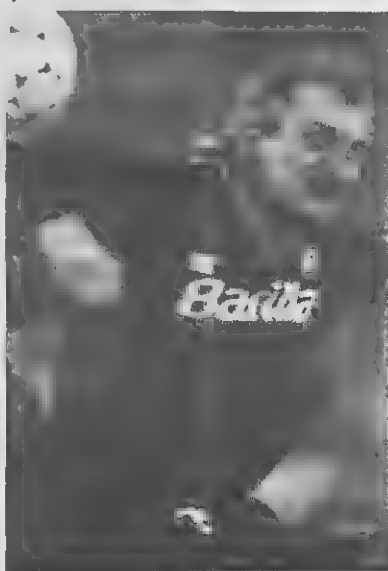
"European federation rules say players should be made available (by their clubs) 48 hours before an international. But that's not enough for me. I need them for training camps too."

Vogts said he tried to persuade the 25-year-old Doll, who has just finished his first Bundesliga season, to put off a move from Hamburg to Lazio.

The clubs agreed the main transfer terms a fortnight ago.

"Of course, I've tried to (put off young players from moving)," he said.

"I tried hard to persuade Doll that it would be better for him to develop more in the Bun-



RUDI VOELLER: one of the many German "mercenaries" in Italy.

desliga. He's not mature enough yet and in my view, he isn't ready for Italy.

"But when they pay net annual salaries up to three million marks (\$A2.22 million), I'm wasting my breath," he said.

In the past, German players generally left the Bundesliga in the twilight of their careers.

Former captain Karl-

Heinz Rummenigge was nearly 29 when he joined Inter Milan in 1984. Now, players are 25 or under when they pack their bags.

Reuter, 24, and the 25-year-old Kohler, both from Bayern Munich, continued the trend this month when they confirmed transfers to Italian first division club Juventus.

Their future oppo-

nents every week will be familiar faces from the German national team, which is struggling three points behind leaders Wales in European championship qualifying group five.

Strikers Juergen Klinsmann, Rudi Voeller and Karlheinz Riedle, midfielders Thomas Haessler and captain Lothar Matthaus and defender Andreas Brehme already play in Italy.

Franz Beckenbauer, who coached Germany to their World Cup triumph in Italy last year, predicted that Italy might even decide to close its borders to foreign players if the Italian side also suffered because of the influx of stars.

The Italian Federation made a similar move after the 1966 World Cup when Italy looked like slipping into obscurity on the world scene.

"Now Italy are threatened with the same fate if they fail to book a place in the 1992 European championship finals," Beckenbauer said.

Italy are only third in group three a point behind the Soviet Union and Norway and face a crucial away match against the Soviets in October.

A SAD END FOR RINUS MICHEL

RINUS MICHEL is entering his last year as coach.

The 63-year-old Michels, now in his third spell as manager of Holland, will retire after the European Championships in Sweden — whether the Dutch qualify or not.

The embarrassing 1-1 draw away to Finland showed that his current team cannot compare with some of his earlier outfits.

Michels is one of the most successful managers in footballing history.



His playing career was undistinguished, he was a bulky centre-forward with Ajax in the 1950s and gained five caps, but Dutch football was then on a level with Iceland or Albania, and all his appearances ended in defeat, including 6-1 against Sweden and 4-1 to Finland.

When he became manager of Ajax in 1965, after a stint teaching at a school for the deaf, Holland were still no power.

The successes of Dutch football from then on coincide closely with the stage of Michels' managerial career.

Ajax won their first Champions' Cup in 1971, with a team created by Michels.

They won the trophy in the next two seasons as well, before the players scattered throughout Europe.

Total

Michels went to Barcelona, taking Johan Cruyff, his star player and the man who helped him develop the revolutionary system of total football.

The system is Michels' most lasting contribution to the sport, even if in his old age he has grown more cautious and now prefers a more defensive style.

His success continued at Barcelona, where he achieved the rare feat of leading the club to the championship.

He returned to Ajax for a brief spell, and then joined Los Angeles Aztecs, Cruyff going with him.

Michels' decision to move to the States is explained by a remark he once made: "If I can get \$120,000 more somewhere else, that's where I'll go."

He shares a mercenary outlook with the best Dutch players.

For all his triumphs in club football — he failed only in Germany, with FC Koln and Bayer Leverkusen — Michels won most fame as manager of Holland.

In 1974 he led the Dutch to the World Cup final, and in 1988 he managed the first Dutch team to win a major trophy: the European Championship.

This trophy meant the most to him, chiefly because he won it without Cruyff.

Enemies always jibe that Cruyff was the man behind all his friend's successes.

The story goes that when injured Rob Rensenbrink had to be substituted at half-time of the 1974 World Cup final, Cruyff — not Michels — decided that Rene van der Kerkhof should replace him.

Sensitive

Michels is very sensitive to such allegations, and he has all the hallmarks of a great manager.

He reads the game perfectly and has complete authority.

His three nicknames sum up the man: 'General' pays homage to his leadership, 'Bull' to his determination, and 'Sphinx' to his mysterious taciturnity.

"The less you say, the less you have to justify afterwards," is one of his sayings.

When he is happy, though, he displays a surprising sense of humour.

He is capable of charming journalists with his wit and his facility in English, German and Spanish, but has a vengeful streak and will refuse to speak to journalists who criticise him.

His relationship with his players rises and falls and is now at a low point.

In 1988 the whole team carried him on their shoulders through Munich's Olympic Stadium, but now the mutual affection has all but disappeared.

The reason is Michels' manipulations to ensure that Cruyff does not become manager of Holland.

Before the World Cup, the players voted Cruyff as the successor to Thijs Libregts, but Michels, then an official of the Dutch FA, ignored them and appointed

his friend Leo Beenhakker instead.

Beenhakker proved a mistake and after the World Cup the players and public obliged Michels to offer the job to Cruyff, who had been insulted by the previous rejection, and refused.

Michels then decided the best man for the job and to the open dismay of some of his players, appointed himself.

Michels and Cruyff no longer get on.

In 1987, Michels was provoked into calling Cruyff a "psychopath".

He is determined that Cruyff should not succeed him as Holland's manager, and because there is no other credible candidate at the moment he has had to keep the job himself.



MARCO VAN BASTEN

Eventually he hopes to pass his post to Dick Advocaat, his current assistant manager and a close friend.

But Michels and his players are not very hopeful about further success.

Marco van Basten and Richard Witschge openly proclaim their preference for Cruyff, and after the match against Greece, when at the players' insistence, Holland switched from Michels' defensive tactics to Cruyff's attacking game, van Basten dedicated the victory to Cruyff.

Michels enters his last season at odds with his team, a sad end to a glorious career.

— courtesy WORLD JOCCER

Sterile years over for Spartak Moscow

MOSCOW Spartak represent the face of "Glasnost" in Soviet soccer.

After almost 20 sterile years, Russian — that is, Moscow-based — soccer was desperately in need of regeneration.

The official leadership of the Soviet game remained rooted in the political conservatism which held the entire country back.

When it came to playing the game the enlightened, outward-looking coaches and soccer scientists of the Ukraine (Kiev) and Georgia (Tbilisi) were way ahead of the Moscow-based theorists.

That's why Kiev and Tbilisi thrilled European club soccer with skill and imagination while the Moscow clubs bored opponents and fans with their old-fashioned, high-discipline, physical approach.

Kiev won the Cup-Winners' Cup in 1975 and 1986.

Stars such as Oleg Blokhin, Alexander Zavarov and Protasov earned admiring glances all round the world



Spartak's latest sensation, Soviet national team midfielder Alexander Mostovoi.

Acclaimed

Tbilisi won the same trophy in 1981 when balding midfielder David Kipiani was acclaimed as one of the continent's great intellects.

Now one can see that the rivalry of Tbilisi kept Kiev, and their all-powerful manager Valeri Lobanovski, on their toes. Unfortunately the political crack-up which followed President Mikhail Gorbachev's exercise in Glasnost and Perestroika also provoked the Georgian Federation

and its clubs to withdraw from the Soviet championship at the start of last year.

The Kiev-based national team cracked up in turn at the 1990 World Cup finals.

The players were more interested in the prospects of life abroad and forgot that the cost of their ticket was success out on the pitch.

The redevelopment of the Soviet game demands all the hard-cash transfer income available from western

Europe. Unfortunately for the health of Soviet soccer, Italia '90 severely devalued their game and their stars.

Moscow Spartak stepped into the void. An unlikely source for regeneration: for years they had represented the party line.

They play their home matches in the 103,000-capacity Olympic/Lenin stadium in the Luzhniki suburb of Moscow; their past heroes included such officially-approved characters as 1950s' top scorer Nikita Simonian (a club record 133 goals) and left-half Igor Netto (a club record 367 appearances).

In addition Spartak, for years, had been ruled by the most respected member of the managerial old guard, Constantin Beskov.

Now, at long last, he had gone.

But so, too, had two of Spartak's finest and more imaginative attackers as well as their most famous goalkeeper.

Retired

Beskov had retired; Fyodor Cherenkov and Sergei Rodionov flew west in search of French francs with Second Division Red Star Paris; Rinat Dasayev was sold, with disastrous personal results, to Spain's Sevilla.

But those changes allowed a fresh wind of change to blow through Spartak.

The team who recently reached the semi-finals of the Champions' Cup (losing to Marseille)

were infinitely more accomplished than the one who qualified by winning the Soviet championship in 1989.

That title reminded fans at home and abroad that Spartak stayed one of the most important influences within Soviet club soccer.

It represented a record 12th championship in addition to a record nine Soviet cups.

Further proof of Spartak's revival was evident from the valuable contributions of Vash Kulkov, Igor Shalimov and Alexander Mostovoi when the Soviet Union held Italy goalless in the European championship in Rome last November.

All that promise was underlined by Spartak's Champions' Cup adventure.

That quarter-final victory over Real Madrid — secured in the Bernabeu Stadium, no less — provided Spartak's first semi-final appearance in Europe.

Although they had competed regularly since 1966, their best achievements previously had been quarter-final placings in the 1973 Cup-Winners' Cup (beaten by Milan), 1981 Champions' Cup (beaten by Real Madrid) and 1984 UEFA Cup (beaten by Anderlecht).

This time they beat Sparta Prague (easily), strife-torn Napoli (on penalties despite the efforts of the late-arriving Maradona) and then Madrid despite controversy over the eligibility of match-winning hero Radchenko.

Fine

In answer to criticism, manager Nikolai Starostin said: "It was important to get the players right away from all the concerns of domestic life in the Soviet Union."

The Japan trip ultimately cost Spartak a \$50,000 fine from their own federation.

Had they beaten Marseille and gone on to win the Champions' Cup nothing, presumably, would have been said.

An expensive lesson on the cost of defeat.

One which, presumably, will not go unheeded in the corridors of Spartak power.

But a punishment which was not, surely, as painful as the realization for coach Oleg Romantsev that Spartak could have beaten both Red Star Belgrade and Marseille had they become the first Soviet club to reach the Champions' Cup final.

—reprinted courtesy WORLD SOCCER



Oscar Ruggeri, Argentina's captain at the Copa America, which ended this past weekend in Chile.

UEFA GETS TOUGH

UEFA have banned Roma from playing the home leg of their next European club tie on their own ground after fans threw fireworks and other missiles during the second leg of the UEFA Cup final against Internazionale in Rome.

The two Italian clubs were both fined 30,000 Swiss francs (\$A25,000) for their fans' bad behaviour in the first leg in Milan. Internazionale won the final 2-1 on aggregate.

UEFA, European

soccer's governing body, banned Italian international defender Giuseppe Bergomi for six European championship matches following his dismissal for violent play during a qualifier against Norway on

June 5.

German defender Thomas Berthold was banned for five European championship matches for a similar offence in a qualifying match against Wales the same day and Albanian captain Suljeman Demullari was suspended for four international matches for spitting at an Icelandic player during a home qualifier on May 26.

UEFA banned Barcelona defender Fernando Munoz for two European club matches for a professional foul on Welsh international Mark Hughes in the European Cup Winners' Cup final against Manchester United.



MARK HUGHES: fouled on.

FINAL SITES

LONDON and Munich have joined Paris to bid for one of the two European Cup finals in May next year.

Wembley and the Olympic Stadium in Munich want the European Champions' Cup final, but would settle for the Cup Winners' Cup if they fail to secure the premier event of the season.

Paris' Parc des Princes is also on the ranks, but it can only hold 48,000 spectators as against Wembley's 80,000 and Munich's 74,000.

UEFA, the governing body of European football, will announce the sites in December.

AFRICAN Cups

This is the quarter-final draw for the two major African Cups:

CHAMPIONS' CUP: Union Douala (Cameroon) v Nkana Red Devils (Zambia); Club Africain (Tunisia) v WAC Casablanca (Morocco); National (Egypt) v Nakivubo Villa (Uganda); Iwunyanwu National (Nigeria) v ASEC Abidjan (Ivory Coast).

CUP-WINNERS' CUP: Motema Pembe (Zaire) v Setif (Algeria); Dynamos FC (Zimbabwe) v BCC Lions (Nigeria); Inter Star (Burundi) v Arab Contractors (Egypt); ASFA Yenega (Burkina-Faso) v Power Dynamos (Zambia).

The home-and-away ties will be played on August 30 and September 15.

SANCHEZ STAYS

BY LOU GAUTIER

Hugo Sanchez surprised everyone by signing with Real Madrid for another season.

The Mexican striker, who has just turned 33, missed most of last season with knee injuries.

He was expected to return to Mexico during the off-season, but club president Ramon Mendoza decided to offer him a new one-year contract, with an option for another season despite objections from star players Emilio Butragueno and Michel.

These two superstars have been feuding with Sanchez for the past two seasons.

The feud has split the squad into two camps, with the anti-Sanchez faction now bitterly disap-

pointed that their bete noire has returned.



HUGO SANCHEZ

Around the globe

Compiled by LOU GAUTIER



- ◆ Stephane Kishi, the 29-year-old Nigerian stopper of Anderlecht, has joined French Second Division club Strasbourg in a three-year deal.
- ◆ Josip Skoblar, the 51-year-old coach of Hajduk Split last season and a former idol of the Marseille fans when he played in France in the late sixties and early seventies, is the new coach of Portugal's Famalicao.
- ◆ Napoli's Careca was all set to join a club in the new Japanese Super League but his wife Fatima refused to leave Italy. The Yokohama club, sponsored by Mitsubishi, was prepared to part with \$4 million to snare the Brazilian striker.
- ◆ Genoa have loaned their star Soviet midfielder Igor Dobrovolsky to Monaco for one season. Dobrovolsky, who joined Genoa nine months ago, was on loan to Castellon of Spain for six months last season.
- ◆ Another Swede will play for Benfica — but only after the finals of Euro '92. Kenneth Andersson, profile scorer for the national team who plays for Goteborg, will join countrymen Magnusson, Thern and Schwartz in Portugal in July 1992.
- ◆ Despite mediocre attendances because of rain, the recent Scania Cup in Sweden, the four-nation tournament which served as dress rehearsal for Euro '92, made a profit of \$800,000 thanks to massive sponsorship.
- ◆ Yugoslav international defender Pradrag Spasic will leave Real Madrid, where he failed to click last season, to play for Osasuna, the Pamplona Spanish First Division team, next season.
- ◆ Czechoslovakian international midfielder Lubos Kubik has been transferred from Fiorentina to French side Metz. Kubik has played 50 times for Czechoslovakia.
- ◆ Alberto Spencer, one of the best players ever produced by Ecuador, died of a heart attack last month. Spencer became one of the greats of South American soccer while playing for Penarol of Uruguay in the sixties.
- ◆ OB Odense beat Aalborg 4-3 on penalties after the teams drew 0-0 in the 120 minutes of the final of the Danish Cup.
- ◆ Mikel Lasa, Real Sociedad's 20-year-old defender, has signed for Real Madrid for five years in a \$2 million deal.
- ◆ Carlos Alberto Parreira, the Brazilian who coached Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, is Artur Jorge's replacement at Porto. Jorge left the Portuguese side to coach Paris Saint-Germain this season.
- ◆ The 306 Dutch First Division matches in the recently concluded 1990/91 season attracted 2,637,000 spectators — an increase of 239,000 fans on the previous season.
- ◆ Magdeburg, who won the European Cup-Winners' Cup in 1974 and who also represented East Germany in last season's UEFA Cup, have been demoted to amateur ranks and will play in a regional league next season, in the all-German Division Four!
- ◆ Mervyn Sherwood, the defender from Trinidad and Tobago beaten 2-0 by the Young Socceroos in the FIFA Coca Cola Cup in Portugal, has been signed by crack Belgian outfit Anderlecht.
- ◆ Rijeka goalkeeper Ivan Garic has joined PAOK Salonika of Greece. PAOK are coached by Yugoslav Miroslav Blazevic, who was formerly with Nantes of France.
- ◆ Youth World Cup-winning Portuguese youngsters Nelson Gil and Rui Bento have signed professional forms and have been integrated into Benfica's first team squad for the upcoming season.
- ◆ Torino have won the Mitropa Cup, once the major competition in the world for club sides, but only a minor regional competition since the introduction of the three European Cups. Italian, Hungarian, Czechoslovakian, Austrian, and Yugoslav clubs take part these days.
- ◆ Former Danish international Frank Arnesen is Bobby Robson's assistant at PSV Eindhoven next season.
- ◆ Veteran Argentinian striker Ramon Diaz has left Monaco, after several seasons in Italy as well to return home. He will play for River Plate next season. Diaz — and Diego Maradona — were the big stars of the 1979 Youth World Cup finals in Japan.
- ◆ Brazilian striker Balthazar who played for Porto last season, has joined Rennes — in the French First Division. Balthazar was the top scorer in Spain two seasons ago when he played for Atletico Madrid.
- ◆ Turkish champions Besiktas have let their British player, Alan Walsh go after two seasons. He was released for being too "old and slow" — at age 32!
- ◆ Anderlecht's Belgian international striker Marc Van Der Linden has joined Ghent in a surprise move. The transfer is said to have been initiated by new Anderlecht signing Marc Wilmots. The striker, purchased from Mechelen, is said to cordially detest Van Der Linden.

Spanish Success Stories

DEPORTIVO La Coruna and Albacete were the two clubs promoted to the Spanish First Division next season.

The success of both in an otherwise nondescript Spanish season was very surprising.

La Coruna beat Murcia 2-0 in their decisive final fixture, interrupted when a firework set fire to a stand roof and then when riot police charged in to sort out "Ultra" groups on the terracing.

Coruna had been in the Second Division since 1973.

Coach Arsenio Iglesias surprisingly announced that he does not want to coach the side in the First.

And, another fairy story to emerge was Albacete's season.

A year ago, Albacete were celebrating promotion to the Second Division.

Now, to coincide with the club's 50th anniversary, they are in the top flight for the first time.

With World Cup hero Luis Gabelo Conejo between their posts it was not surprising that the decisive 2-0 victory over Salamanca was beamed live to Costa Rica.

But Albacete owe even more to Benito Floro, 39-year-old schoolmaster who, as player and manager, had never risen above the regional sections of Division 2B.

His meticulous approach to the job has produced the supreme dividend for a club with 1,800 "socios" and a 12,000-capacity stadium in a city of 137,000 inhabitants.

Albacete provided the romantic note in a prosaic 1990/91 season.

NO RICARDO FOR PARIS!

BRAZILIAN defender Ricardo's transfer from Benfica to Paris St Germain has been blocked by the French League.

The League refused to register the World Cup player because Paris St Germain already has its limit of two foreigners from outside the European Community.

One of them, Yugoslav striker Zlatko Vujovic, who still has one year of his contract to run, is trying to obtain French citizenship.



New Napoli signing, Laurent Blanc, libero of the French national team whose next big assignment is a crucial Euro-92 qualifier against Czechoslovakia on September 4.

"HONVED" AGAIN "KISPET"

HONVED's success in the Hungarian championship was a deserved triumph for their coach, Dr Gyorgy Mezey, and his players.

Mezey, formerly in charge of the national team, had brought together a collection of talented individuals who blended into an integrated unit, capable of adapting to various tactics.

Honved won the title — for the 12th time — with three matches to spare.

Their only rival, Ferencváros, lost their last faint chance of taking over when they could only draw with the bottom club, Volan.

The championship success has been marked by a change of name, and the club's official title is now Kispest Honved FC.

Kispest Athletic Club was the original

title — after the district of Budapest where the ground is situated — but there was a change to Honved in 1949, when the Hungarian Army took over the club's affairs.

Two of Hungary's greatest players, Ferenc Puskas and the late Jozef Bozsik, were Honved products.

Now Mihaly Kozma, an influential forward of the post-1950s era, is the club's managing director.

PARISIANS TO GO BRAZILIAN



BRAZILIAN libero Geraldao has joined Paris St Germain from Porto on a three-year contract.

The transfer fee has not been disclosed.

Geraldao, scorer of 12 league goals for Porto last season, links up with former Porto coach Arthur Jorge who signed a one-year contract with the Paris club last month.



EDITED BY TOM ANDERSON

George Graham made me a \$2m man

Says **TEDDY**
SHERINGHAM

NOTTINGHAM FOREST'S BIG-MONEY BUY

GEORGE GRAHAM might be wondering where he went wrong now I've become a £2 million player.

When he was manager of Millwall, he offered me to Brentford for just £5,000.

And before that, he loaned me out to Aldershot and a club in Stockholm called Djurgården.

On paper, that doesn't add up now I've left Cold Blow Lane to join Brian Clough at Nottingham Forest for that big fee.

But I must own up to the truth. George gave me loads of great advice when he was my boss. I just didn't listen to him.

It was only after he'd left for Arsenal that his words sank in. Only then did I act on what he'd told me.

I know I used to make George tear his hair out because I never wanted to score a simple goal when I was a youngster.

The ball always had to be bent into the goal. Either that, or I wanted to chip it in.

Anything, as long as it was spectacular and made me look good.

Selfish

Time after time, George used to tell me: "When you're through, just put the ball away."

"Do the simple thing. Don't try to be too clever. Your job is to score goals."

He sent me on loan and offered me for sale out of sheer exasperation.

My career only started to take off when it eventually sank in what he was right and I was wrong.

Last season, at Mill-

mother called me Edward, so he asked me: "What were you christened?"

I said: Edward, but everyone called me Teddy.

So what did Cloughie do? He called me nothing but Edward all day!

I'm not one for making predictions. And I certainly wouldn't put pressure on my new team-mates by saying we're going to take the title from Arsenal.

Dreamed

But I do feel Forest have a great chance.

There are some smashing young players at the club who seem to be maturing just at the right time.

Even though I know Spurs and Chelsea wanted to keep me in London, I decided to sign for Forest because I feel I'm joining a side that's about to become very successful.

It's all a far cry from when I was a kid. I



GEORGE GRAHAM

used to go and watch all my local teams — Spurs, West Ham and Orient.

I idolised Trevor Brooking and Glenn Hoddle.

And I used to love watching Kenny Dalglish when Liverpool were in town.

I only ever dreamed I would be part of the First Division scene myself.

I got my start in a friendly for Leytonstone and Ilford against Millwall's youth team.

We beat them 2-1, I scored both goals and Millwall took me on.

Things didn't look good when George was offering me for sale.

He should worry, having won all that silverware at Arsenal.

But now it's my turn for trophies.

Dave Mitchell leaves Chelsea

FORMER Australian soccer international David Mitchell has been sold by English First Division club Chelsea to Second Division Swindon in a deal worth \$64,000.

It's a big drop on the \$426,000 Chelsea paid Dutch club Feyenoord

in 1988 to secure the striker's services.

Mitchell never approached his best form with Chelsea and spent most of his time in the reserves team.

Form lapse was also a problem he suffered during an earlier stint with Glasgow Rangers.

Swindon is Mitchell's fifth European club.

The 28-year-old Scottish-born striker has also played for Eintracht Frankfurt in Germany as well as making regular appearances for Australia.

His last match for the Socceroos was the 1-1 draw against Israel in the World Cup qualifier in April 1989 at the Sydney Football Stadium.

ARSENAL STUNNER

Manager searching for a star

WEALTHY champions Arsenal are understaffed for their most challenging season in 20 years.

Manager George Graham admitted on Sunday his squad was not up to full strength for the twin demands of the European Cup and the League Championship.

Arsenal beat Trollhattan, a team of Swedish amateurs, 1-0 on the weekend with a goal from David Hillier.

But it wasn't lack of goals at this early stage of the campaign, but shortage of players that most concerned Graham, who has yet to spend a penny this summer.

Graham, who splashed out £3½ million last year to win back the League title from Liverpool, admitted:

"Our squad is too small. We have 20 first-team players. Two are injured, two are goalkeepers and so we have only 16 outfield players."

"The trouble is that there is not a lot of quality around on the British market."

"I have been sent quite a few tapes of players from foreign agents."

"And they tend to release names if you hang on to them too long."

"That was the case for the Swede Jonas Thern, but I have not been in touch with Benfica or the player."

"One thing is for sure, I won't buy bad players just to make up numbers."

Arsenal, who gave 16 players a run, could only come up with a 40th minute goal from Hillier between them when he whacked in a low 20-yarder.

Scots in for Mick

VETERAN midfielder Mickey Thomas could be on his way to ambitious Scottish side Partick Thistle.

They're among several clubs set to move for the ex-Manchester United player, still regarded as one of the fittest and most enthusiastic in the game.

Thomas' shock free transfer from Stoke caused a storm among fans who had voted him Player of the Year.

PETERBOROUGH skipper Mickey Halsall has slapped in a transfer request.

The Scouser led Posh to promotion from the Fourth Division last season but negotiations over a new contract have ground to a halt.

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★★★ **STAR OF THE WEEK** ★★★



**ANDY
TILLSON
Q·P·R**



We're top of the League for the B-I-G soccer stories

WILKO CAN'T

THE £10 MILLION Leeds spending spree has produced only TWO players good enough to get into Don Revie's great team.

That's the shock verdict of Maurice Lindley, the starmarker who discovered the great names of Elland Road's glory years.

The 'L' in Leeds is now written with a pound sign following manager Howard Wilkinson's big-money drive to exorcise Revie's ghost. And Wilko's even stored away the pictures of Billy Bremner and Co to avoid reminders of a winning past.

But the haunting of those savage sorcerers of the Sixties and Seventies takes some stopping.

After all, Revie won two championships, the FA Cup, League Cup and two European Fairs Cups in 10 storming years.

"I'm very pleased to see what's happening at Elland Road now," says Lindley, the power behind Revie's throne.

Judge

"Howard is getting the right backing for going about it the Liverpool way — signing the best players available.

"But the only current players who would have got into the old team are keeper John Lukic and midfielder man Gordon Strachan."

Of the rest, only David Batty makes him stop and think.

"But, I don't know whether he has enough upstairs to ever compete with Bremner," says Lindley.

That's the sober assessment of one of the great judges of football flesh.

For 13 years, the tall Yorkshireman was to Revie what Bob Paisley was to Bill Shankly at Liverpool — an unsung No. 2, but someone

with ideas, wisdom and knowhow.

He was also the silver-tongued gatherer of talent including Peter Lorimer, Eddie and Frank Gray, Mick Jones, Allan Clarke and Bremner.

Most of them were brought in as kids.

Lindley, along with coach Syd Owen, scout Tony Collins and trainer Les Cocker, were what Revie used to call "the hidden power."

And when Revie defected to England, Lindley became the most famous caretaker out-

side Harold Pinter's play.

Five times he kept afloat the ship rocked by the failed regimes of Brian Clough, Jimmy Armfield, Jock Stein and Jimmy Adamson.

However, he didn't survive the next ill-fated stint — Allan Clarke's.

Lindley was confronted with a hitherto hidden boardroom minute saying employees must quit at the age of 65.

When he joined Revie in 1951, Leeds were all but broke and heading for the Third

Only TWO of his £10 million stars would be good enough for Revie

Division.

The man whose 17-year Everton career was wrecked by the war gave up his job as coach to high-flying Sheffield Wednesday only to avoid the daily travel from his Leeds home.

Stop travelling? He'd only just started. It was then that the great Leeds nationwide dragnet for talent began.

"We were broke. My brief was to go for the best kids I could," recalls Lindley.

"It was a market cornered by Manchester United and we had to compete with no money."

How did he do it? "I could always talk and I concentrated on the boys' mums. They had the power."

"And I worked on the line that the boys would be only one of many at Manchester United. 'They'd get their chance quicker at Leeds.'"

So the Lorimers and the Grays came, "We'd

been chasing Lorimer pretty hard when I got a call late one night from Don."

Blame

"He said to get ready. He'd heard Manchester United were out for him and we had to go to Dundee right away to see him."

"We drove fast, we were stopped for speeding around Edinburgh. But Don explained why and the cops recognised him and let him off."

"We arrived at Peter's at around 1am in the morning and signed him there and then."

"As for Eddie Gray, Chelsea's chief scout forced his way into his home while Don was there tying things up, insisting Tommy Docherty had told him he couldn't leave without Eddie's signature."

"Don and Mr Gray had to manhandle him out of the house."

It wasn't just kids who changed Leeds. If you don't like modern



Gordon Strachan



BRIAN CLOUGH

Sad Gazza talks out

PAUL Gascoigne, the Tottenham and England football star, says the game is running his life.

"Sometimes I feel I haven't got a life of my own," said the 24-year-old for whom Italian club Lazio has offered a reported Stg4.8 million (\$A10.25 million) transfer fee.

"I just want to be happy, and that won't be until I've packed the game in. It won't be for a long time yet."

"Look at George Best; trouble is, they're trying to get me to be like him and I'm not, I'm just me," he said, in an interview

on London Weekend Television.

Gascoigne, one of the best paid players in English football, says life is tough.

"I've had money, but when have I enjoyed spending it?"

My family enjoy it, but when I go out I get paranoid, people are always pestering me," he said.

"I even get the feeling my friends don't want to go out with me because of all the trouble."

"The last six months I just haven't been enjoying life."

Discussing a "brawl" story splashed across front pages earlier this week, in which he is alleged to have head-butted two men, he said: "It's ridiculous really."

"It only happened because of who I am. I was protecting my sister, only 17, she's only little. She got a punch in the stomach and I only did what anyone would do if their sister was attacked."



UNHAPPY PAUL GASCOIGNE

USA bound

ENGLISH League Cup champions Sheffield Wednesday will travel to the United States later this month for a friendly match against the Maryland Bays, the top club of the American Professional Soccer League.

Sheffield will take on the Maryland Bays on July 30 at the 3,500-seat Cedar Lane Park in Columbia, Maryland.

The Maryland Bays are the reigning APSL champions and lead the league this season.

Les off

LES Sealey, Manchester United's goalkeeper in their European Cup Winners' Cup final victory earlier this year, joined Aston Villa on a free transfer last week.

Sealey, released by United at the end of last season, has signed a two-year contract.

Premier go-ahead

FOURTEEN English First Division clubs have signed a founder members' agreement establishing a Premier League, but have made it clear they want Second Division clubs to stay with the Football League.

However, Division One spokesman Rick Parry says in return for their agreement to the scheme, the Second Division clubs will get promotion and relegation.

Only 14 of the 22 First Division clubs have signed the agreement but Parry is confident the rest will add their signatures.

The League and the Football Association are due to do battle in the High Court next week on the issue.

KEEP GOING FOR MORE BIG EURO SOCCER NEWS



Here it is — the best soccer action show of the week

BEAT LEEDS GHOSTS!



English football blame Revie and Lindley.

The pair drove the innocence from soccer to get Leeds out of trouble.

"Until then, games had been friendly — trials of skill," says Lindley.

"Results weren't so important. Managers didn't get sacked so much.

"Well, we were in trouble and we set out to stop people playing.

"We worked out the dangers, the men who made teams tick. And we made sure they didn't get a kick.

"Referees were also assessed for what they would and would not allow. It was sheer professionalism."

Lindley took two hours to compile the dossiers on opposition which Revie took home to plot for victory.

It worked but at what public cost outside Leeds? It's said that not one Second Division team finished intact against their ruthless 1964 promotion fighters.

They were feared, respected and totally unloved.

Johnny Giles, the pocket general, has since admitted being ashamed of some of the things he did in those days.

Killing

It was a revolution of style and emphasis and soccer people flocked to Elland Road to learn.

"That was the first we really realised we were producing something different," says Lindley.

"We were just doing what was right for us."

That revolution has spawned an era in which time and space is almost impossible to find, all but killing the artist and the beautiful game.

Lindley admits: "Perhaps the game has decreased as a spectacle because of that. But I would argue there's not the talent being produced there was."

No matter. There aren't many people around who can say they changed the course of football.

Says

MAURICE LINDLEY

Starmaker of Elland Road



DON REVIE

Clough offside

BRIAN CLOUGH, kicked out of Elland Road after 44 days, couldn't resist a snide farewell crack at Maurice Lindley.

Says Lindley: "After Cloughie had been sacked, he caught sight of me in my office. As he went past, he flung out an arm and shouted: 'At least your job's safe!'"

"It was uncalled for. But we never got on. He had his own ideas. And he didn't want consultation."

"His approach was entirely different from Revie's."

Revolution

"He didn't want dossiers on the opposition. He believes in HIS teams setting the problems."

"Fair enough. But it was a revolution; the difference was a lot for the lads to take in. He had also said too much that was bad about the club. The players remembered."

"He brought in men who weren't good enough."

ugh. John McGovern for Bremner — I ask you! And the atmosphere under him was dead."

It came to a head when the directors called a meeting of staff to find out what was going wrong.

"Nothing much was said until a player, not noticed for speaking his mind, said to Brian: 'You don't know the game. Brian didn't say anything, but it wasn't the end.'"

Lindley claims Jimmy Armfield came nearest to getting it right after Revie. "He was probably two players short, that's all."

"Maybe Jimmy did suffer for not being more forceful at boardroom level. Duncan McKenzie once said, half-joking: 'The manager's indiscipline is fatal.'"

"I was called in as caretaker when Jimmy left. I told the board exactly what was needed, and one director said: 'No-one's spoken to us like that for ages.' Jock Stein was a legend in Scotland, and that's where his mind seemed to be during his 44 days in charge, coincidentally the same time spent at Elland Road as Clough."

"He didn't stay long enough to get to know, but I don't know whether he didn't use Leeds," says Lindley.

Unhappy

It was under Allan Clarke, one of the players he'd helped sign, that Lindley felt unhappy for the only time at Elland Road.

"Allan was a loner as a player," says Lindley. "He could be a joker in his own way, but I don't know whether he could laugh at his own expense."

"That was my most uncomfortable experience there. I certainly had nothing to do with his paying £930,000 for Peter Barnes! And that mistake cost him."

SWEDISH World Cup striker Johnny Ekstrom has quit French club Cannes and is available on a free transfer. Aston Villa are already linked with him.

TERRY COOPER and Ian Atkins are lined up as the new management team at Birmingham if compensation can be settled with their clubs, Exeter and Colchester.

BLACKBURN are rivaling Millwall in their bid to sign £300,000-rated Middlesbrough full-back Colin Cooper. The 24-year-old had talks with Millwall manager Bruce Rioch last Saturday.

I never dreamed they'd sack me

MAURICE LINDLEY brought millions of pounds worth of talent to Elland Road.

But he was pushed through the front door for a sum that would just buy a Fourth Division reserve these days.

Now 10 years on, chairman Leslie Carver earns credit for trying to put right that injustice when Leeds go to Bradford City on Wednesday for Lindley's testimonial.

City, where Lindley was once a teenage amateur, snapped him up as chief scout, almost before he had finished breaking the news of this sacking to his wife.

Even now, the emotion bites as he recalls that infamous day.

"I was in my office when I was called to the boardroom," says Lindley.

"I knew it was the end, before Chairman Manny Cussins broke the news. Somehow though there was a sense of insecurity when Don left."

"I had never felt in danger when new managers arrived."

"I was so involved with what I was doing, enjoying it so much, it just didn't occur to me."

"Just as it didn't ever occur that they might ask me to be manager."

"What disappointed me was that I wasn't allowed to leave under my own steam after such great times."

"Ironically, only three years before, I was approached by director Bob Roberts, during one of my caretaker spells, and asked whether I would like the job."

"I told him at 62 I thought it was too late and that they should go for a tracksuit manager."

"I was thinking of the

club, but if I'd known what was to happen, my answer would have been very different."

Fight

"I had no contract. I'd never had one. They asked me what I wanted."

"I named a sum I thought reasonable after 20 years but they made it plain I wouldn't get it."

In the end he had to fight to get severance pay that's less than Dean Saunders earns in two weeks. So much for 20 years' loyalty!

No wonder he packed his bag and just walked out without saying goodbye to anyone.

Another example of why soccer people have to be selfish or suffer.

Liam's man

IRISH international striker Tony Cascarino finally completed his Stg1.1 million (\$A2.38 million) move from English First Division Aston Villa to Scottish club Celtic last week.

Celtic manager Liam Brady broke the club's transfer record to get Cascarino in his big-singing since assuming control last month.

"We are all delighted that Tony has opted for Celtic. I've no doubt he'll make a big impact with the fans," said Brady.

"He's chosen to join us because he is ambitious to win trophies. I have convinced him that with the squad of players we have, we'll do just that."

Cascarino said he had "no doubts" about signing.



Tony Cascarino

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This action photograph of Mehmet Durakovic and David Platt during the recent Australia-England game appeared in the mass-circulation "France Football" over an entire page — in colour.

PLATT'S IT

Villa in for Townsend

ASTON VILLA are ready to swoop for Andy Townsend to replace £5.5 million ace David Platt.

Villa boss Ron Atkinson rates Townsend, 28 this week, the perfect mark to take over from Platt, who joined Italian club Bari at the weekend in a record British transfer deal.

It will cost nearly £2.5 million to prise Townsend from Chelsea.

Contract

It took seven and a half hours to thrash out the final details of the

deal for England international Platt.

The figure was £500,000 less than Atkinson had agreed with Bari president Vincenzo Matarrese last Wednesday.

But Villa will get 50 per cent of any amount over £5.5 million if Bari call on Platt at the end of his three-year contract.

"It was hard work sorting out the terms, which required 26 alterations during negotiations," said Villa chairman Doug Ellis.

"The contract David has signed will set him

up for life. We are obviously unhappy that we are losing a world class player.

"But he had made up his mind he wanted to go to Italy and has been taking Italian lessons for the last six months."

The transfer is the joint second biggest in football history behind the £7.7 million Juventus paid for Roberto Baggio and equals Ruud Gullit's move from PSV Eindhoven to AC Milan.

Platt revealed he had the backing of England manager Graham Taylor over the move.

Happy

"I spoke to him a couple of weeks ago and he assured me that it would not affect my England career. I also had a call from Lawrie McMenemy that morn-

ing to wish me all the best," said Platt.

"I realise that some British players have struggled to make an impact in Italian football but I'm 100 per cent certain that I've made the right decision.

"I have had three extremely happy years at Villa and I'm sad to be leaving especially now that Ron Atkinson has taken over. But I'm only 25 and there may be an opportunity for me to come back.

"When I went out to Bari in May I was impressed with everything I saw but I had doubts about the strength of the squad."

"Since then the president has been true to his word by spending £12 million on six players which proves that we share the drive to succeed.



KENDALL TO KOP BEARDO



PETER BEARDSLEY

EVERTON boss Howard Kendall will swoop this week for Peter Beardsley.

Kendall, beaten by Liverpool for £2.9m Dean Saunders, now aims to take the striker shoved aside by Saunders.

Kendall may have to go to £2m to get his man. He wants to team him with 6ft 4in Dutchman Wim Kieft in a little and large spearhead.

The 30-year-old Georgie is one of the players Graeme Souness is ready to sell after his £5.1m splash on Saunders and Mark Wright.

But he would be reluctant to sell him to Everton

on two counts.

Beardsley is a major bargaining figure in his bid to take Leeds' mid-field mate, David Batty.

And Souness wouldn't fancy Beardsley turning it on across the road from Anfield.

Leeds, desperate for a quality striker, are

taking some convincing that Beardsley is worth trading for the Elland Road idol, even with £1m added.

Wanted

Kendall has been repeatedly knocked back in the transfer market.

Celtic boss Liam Brady has refused Everton's massive £2m offer

for Parkhead captain Paul McStay.

Kieft, 28, has played for Ajax, Pisa, Torino, PSV Eindhoven and Bordeaux.

Bosnich

Manchester United's kid keeper Mark Bosnich is wanted in part-exchange by Brondby to replace Old Trafford-bound Peter Schmeichel.

The Danish champs have taken him to a pre-season tournament in Switzerland.

And the 19-year-old Aussie's show in the opener against Stuttgart was enough to convince boss Morten Olsen that he should stay.

But Bosnich has stunned him by saying: "Sorry, I want to go back home to Australia."

Schmeichel, currently in training with United, expects to complete his long drawn out £650,000 deal on August 1.

THIS WEEK ON SBS

YOUR SOCCER STATION

Saturday, July 27

★ World Soccer — 5pm

Main match: Copa America — two Phase Two matches from Chile as South America's top four countries battle for supremacy.

★ ★ ★

Sunday, July 28

★ European Football — 11.30am

Main match: A double-header from the Scania Cup in Sweden, featuring Italy against Denmark and Sweden versus the Soviet Union.

Kev out to get back to the UK

KEVIN RICHARDSON reports for pre-season training with John Toshack's Real Sociedad tomorrow — hoping for a come-home call.

Richardson was made available with John Aldridge and Dalian Atkinson, but is the only one of the three not resettled in England.

He still hopes something may come of recent talks with Chelsea and Everton. LIMERICK want Ian Allardice as new boss. The ex-West Brom coach is in Ireland for talks.

Sam's son, Craig, huge like his dad, has just signed for Preston.

FRANK Stapleton is chewing over Bury's offer to be player-coach.

Big snub!

★ **MANCHESTER UNITED boss Alex Ferguson last week blasted clubs who have snubbed a testimonial match in honour of Sir Matt Busby.**

Several top players, including Liverpool's Ronnie Whelan, Steve Staunton and Ray Houghton, have been withdrawn from Jack Charlton's Republic of Ireland squad who meet United at Old Trafford on August 11.

And Fergie yesterday accused them of "a snub to the first gentleman of football." He added: "Every Irish squad player should have been automatically released. You sometimes wonder if there's an element of jealousy with some folk. This is a final tribute to Sir Matt for what he achieved for United and British football."

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